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The Growers' Guide

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Washington State University President Elizabeth "Betsy" Cantwell and College of Agriculture, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences Dean Raj Khosla Oct. 20 at the Ida Lou Anderson House on the Pullman campus of Washington State University. (Robert Hubner/Washington State University Photo Services)

WSU's new president, ag dean talk budget, research, the future

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By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Washington State University has entered a new era of leadership. Elizabeth "Betsy" Cantwell became president April 1.

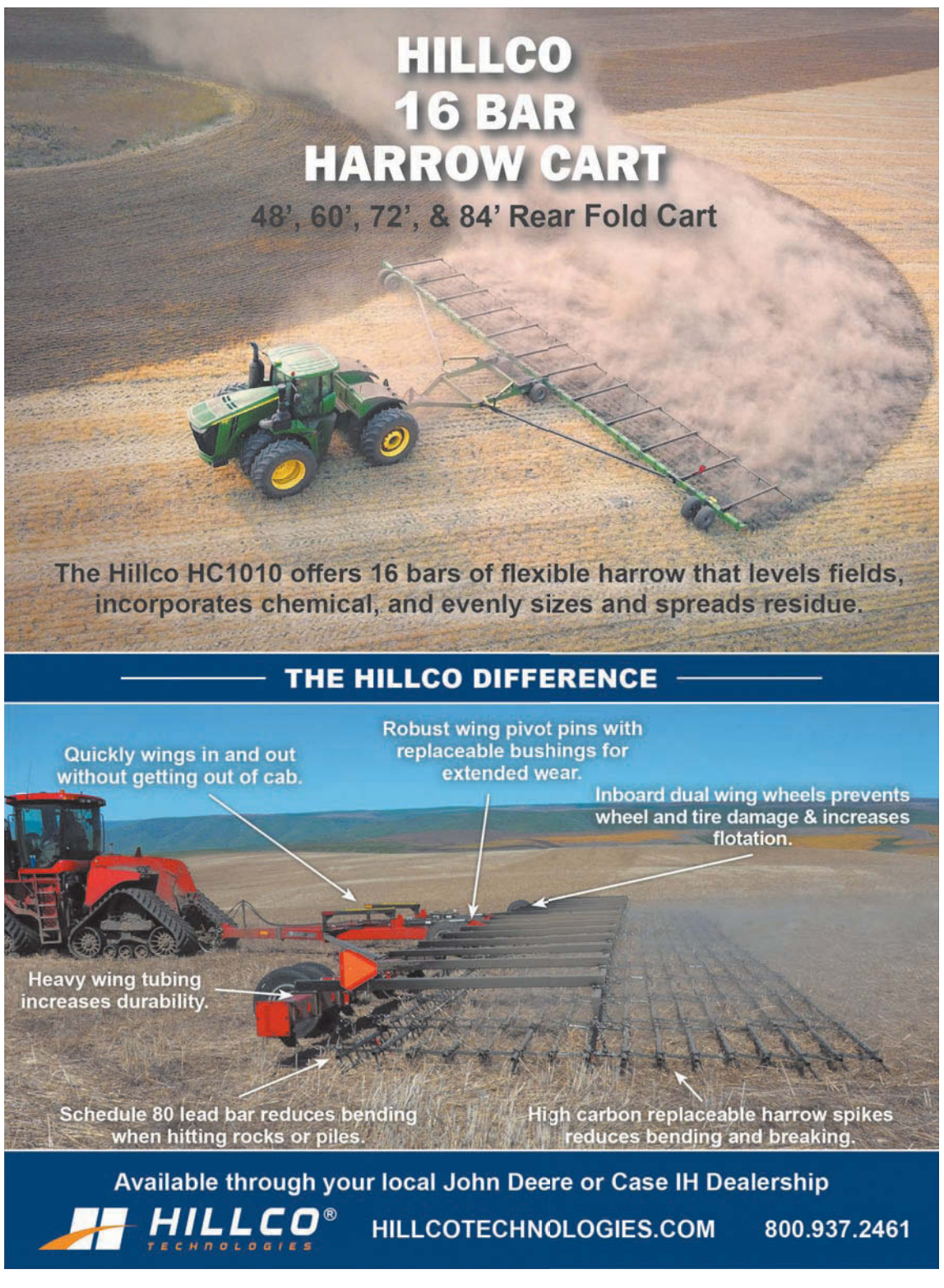
"This institution has proudly been one of the pre-eminent land-grant, agriculturally-focused universities in the U.S. since its inception in 1890," Cantwell told Capital Press. "We haven't lost the bubble on that, and we won't. That's why we hired Dean Khosla."

Raj Khosla became the new Cashup Davis Family Endowed Dean of WSU's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences Sept. 1.

"I'm a proud product and champion of land-grant institutions," Khosla told Capital Press. "I want to make sure CAHNRS and WSU Extension are accessible, nimble and responsive."

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WSU:

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Cantwell and Khosla spoke to Capital Press for their first interview together during a Zoom meeting the morning of Oct. 8, 2025. The interview has been edited for length and clarity.

Q: What is the biggest agricultural need?

Cantwell: The future of food globally is one of the most potentially significant crisis areas.

We can see it coming, we can see global challenges and we know we have the capacity to address many of those by getting in front of some of the climate-related problems or food production, disease-related problems.

For me, that is one of the key areas — to make sure that we are always engaged in being in front of challenges in global food, and global health associated with food.

Khosla: … Throughout my career, I have collaborated and partnered with communities. I was an extension specialist, and you know extension is not a one-way thing. We address pressing challenges for our communities we serve.

We do that by understanding the challenges they are dealing with and then working closely with them to identify opportunities, how we can co-create solutions that address their core challenges.

I couldn't agree with President Cantwell more. Recently in one of her blogs and newsletters, she talked about, "Instead of managing change, let's co-create solutions to lead change."'

Cantwell: Yes. And that change can be everything, from federal funding short- or long-term blips on the screen to adapting to tariffs.

… My answer to everything is — for instance, how do we do this, how do we manage with that, how do we deal with a budget cut – the first thing we do is say some version of yes: Yes, we can figure this out. Maybe we have to back off. That's fair; we might have to come back and say, 'That part is really hard, but we'll do this part.' But we always

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'04 CIH AFX8010, 3916E/4103S Hrs., 4WD, Chopper, '11 CIH 3020-35' Flex Head & Cart **$35,000**

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'08 GLEANER R75, 3165E/2582S Hrs, '10 MacDon D50-35' Draper Head & Cart **$39,500**

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'13 MACDON FD75-S FLEX DRAPER, 35', CIH Adapter, Top Auger .. **$57,000**

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'18 TERRAGATOR 8400B, diesel engine, CVT transmission, Air Max Precision, 70' stainless steel boom, Raven Viper IV controller, 3973 Hours $138,000





2015 RBR VENTURI 350, 3311 Hrs. 8.9L Cummins Diesel Engine. Pre DEF. Allison Automatic transmission. Case 810 70' air boom, triple bin. 4wd, Viper 4, auto steer..... $132,500

2021 TERRAGATOR TG8400C, low hours,Diesel engine, Raven Viper 4, Electric Roll Tarp, New Leader NL4500G4 Edge - 14' with 4 bin Multibin Applier. 1847 Hours..... $175,000.00





2017 TERRAGATOR TG8400B, Airmax Precision, 70' boom, Viper 4, 3254 Hours $126,000



'12 JOHN DEERE 4940 SPRAYER, Hydrostatic transmission, 1200 gallon stainless steel liquid system, 120' boom, stainless steel chemical inductor, Vogelsang A17387 front fill, 710/70R42 flotation tires, John Deere GreenStar 3 monitor, 4,421 Hours..... $99,500



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2019 TERRAGATOR TG8400C, Cummins diesel, 3446 Hours. Diesel Engine, CVT [illegible] Viper 4 monitor. Airmax Precis[illegible] booms. Micro bin with yellow and white rollers. Electric roll tarp..... $152,000

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1969 LUBBOCK NH3 TRANSPORT TRAILER, 10,400 gallon, Blackmer pump, tank volume gauge, WK 265 PSI, MC331, OAL 463, OD 84.4, Shell Thk .401, Head Thk .250, tandem axle, spring suspension, National Board #1390. ..... $45,000.00



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'18 JOHN DEERE F4365, w/AB485 Twin Bin Air system, 70ft booms, Gen 4 Integrated Display, Tarp, Lincoln Lube System, Premium Cab. 2724 Hours $149,000





'20 CASE IH TITAN 4540, Diesel Engine, Automatic transmission, 2 speed rear end. Case 810 Flex air. Bed extensions. 70' boom. Electronic roll tarp. Viper 4 controller. Auto Steer. 2511 Hours $173,000

'18 CASE 4540, 2745 Hours Case FLX 810 Triple Bin air bed. 70' Boom. Raven Viper 4 controller, Auto Steer. Electric roll tarp. $160,000





2017 JOHN DEERE F4365 HI-CAPACITY NUTRIENT APPLICATOR, 3440 Hrs. IVT transmission. AutoTrac guidance. Starfire 6000 receiver, DN495 New Leader MultiApplier $139,000

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1990 IH 9400 FERTILIZER TENDER, 3406 Cat, Willmar stainless steel rear auger tender box, electric roll tarp, 24.5 tires, pintle hitch. 472,304 miles $23,000

16ton Willmar self contained tender trailer for..... $21,000 sold separately or together.



1990 FREIGHTLINER LIQUID TENDER, with flatbed pup, 2800 gallon tank, gas powered 2 inch pump. Detriot diesel engine. 762178 miles..... $34,000

2017 CASE IH 4540, diesel engine, Allison automatic, 810 Flex Air, 70' boom, micro ingredient bins, Viper 4 4,590 Hours $92,000





2016 RBR ENTERPRISE VENTURI 350, fertilizer spreader, Cummins diesel engine, Allison automatic transmission, 350Hp, 4 wheel drive, air ride chassis, 13 foot, New Leader L4000 G4 twin spinner, All Hydraulic, Raven Viper Pro monitor, smart trax auto steer, 4099 Hours..... $78,000



2014 CASE IH TITAN 3530 LITTER BED, diesel engine, Allison automatic transmission, Raven Viper Pro monitor SmarTrax autosteer. Chandler CL Fertilizer, Litter Compost, shavings spreader, 16' length, twin Hyd spinners. 3,255 hours. Cracked front windshield..... $142,000.00



2019 TERRAGATOR TG8400C, 2648 Hours, Diesel Engine, CVT transmission. Viper 4 monitor, auto steer. Airmax Precision 2 bed, 70' stainless steel booms. Micro bin. Auto greaser, Electric roll tarp..... $178,000



2018 TIMPTE DRY TRAILER, 40' aluminum hopper trailer, hydraulic dry tender belt can be run off truck hydraulic wet kit or self contained gas engine, electric roll over tarp, sight glass windows, tandem axle, air ride suspension..... ~~$75,000~~ $63,000

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start with, 'We'll figure this out.' None of these things are existential for us, at this point.

Q: How does WSU's budget look?

Cantwell: We're really working hard not to adversely impact those areas of the university that are critical to the future of the state of Washington. Agriculture absolutely is. We've really worked hard not to have an adverse impact on CAHNRS.

The other budget cut kind of challenge that all of us in higher education are dealing with is at the federal government research level.

We do a beautiful job already of partnering with our growers and ranchers and the large conglomerates in the state, asking everybody to think more about research as a partnership between the university and growers, farmers and companies.

Instead of always expecting the federal government to be both either the funder or the generator of problems or the arbiter of the research we do, we're now going to be working together much more tightly.

I think we're going to see that nationally, but Washington can lead in demonstrating how important and impactful those direct partnerships can be on the agricultural sector.

Q: WSU's veterinary hospital closed to agricultural animal emergencies and after-hours services in July. Several prominent Washington veterinarians voiced their concerns about the change, and the general shortage of large animal vets. WSU and the state are studying this shortage. What are your thoughts?

Cantwell: At the top level, people like me look at utilization of all the capacities at the university. When we think about taking budget cuts, we are in no way arbitrary. So if the utilization of our after-hours, emergency services for large animals is really low, then it makes sense to say, "We will basically take the resources that have been utilized for that" and augment other capacities in vet med. So we are hardly reducing our capacity to serve rural vet medicine.

It is an all-hands-on-deck moment for rural veterinary service, but our choice was really made on the basis of very low utilization of that service.

There are other challenges that don't come from budget cuts, but come from the whole systemic challenge of serving rural populations, whether it's veterinary med-

See WSU, Page A7

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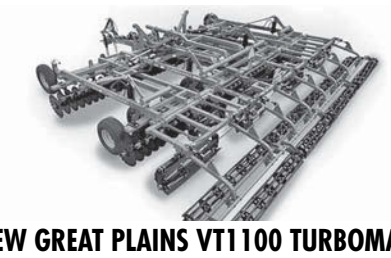
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Kitchen corner: Christmas dinner suggestions

By DANA

It's time to think about Christmas dinner. Here are some suggestions.



Ribeye roast with Dijon crust and roasted green beans. (Cattlemen's Beef Council)

Ribeye roast with Dijon crust and roasted green beans

Cattlemen's Beef Board and the National Cattlemen's Association

Ingredients:

1 beef Ribeye Roast Bone-In (4 to 6 pounds)

1/2 cup Dijon-style mustard

2-1/3 cups cheese and garlic or Caesar croutons, finely crushed (about 1-1/4 cups crumbs), divided

1-1/2 pounds green beans, trimmed

1 tablespoon olive oil

Directions:

Heat oven to 350°F. Spread mustard evenly over all surfaces of beef roast. Press 1 cup crouton crumbs evenly onto roast over mustard.

Place roast, fat side up, on rack in shallow roasting pan. Insert ovenproof meat thermometer so tip is centered in thickest part of beef, not resting in fat. Do not add water or cover. Roast in 350°F oven 1-3/4 to 2 hours for medium rare; 2 to 2-1/4 hours for medium doneness.

Meanwhile toss green beans with oil on metal baking sheet. Add remaining 1/4 cup crouton crumbs; toss to coat. Roast in 350°F oven with beef roast 30 minutes.

Remove roast when meat thermometer registers 135°F for medium rare; 150°F for medium. Increase oven temperature to 450°F; continue roasting green beans 10 to 20 minutes or until tender and starting to brown.

Transfer roast to carving board; tent loosely with aluminum foil. Let stand 15 to 20 minutes. (Temperature will continue to rise about 10°-15°F to reach 145°F for medium rare; 160°F for medium.)

Carve roast into slices. Season beef and green beans with salt and pepper, as desired.



Easy spiral cut ham. (Iowa Pork Producers Association)

Easy spiral cut ham

Iowa Pork Producers Association

Ingredients

One 10-pound spiral-cut, bone-in ham

¼ cup orange juice

½ cup brown sugar

2 tablespoons salted butter

1 tablespoon Dijon mustard

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 325 degrees Fahrenheit.

Remove the ham from the packaging and place in a large shallow baking dish.

Cover tightly with aluminum foil and bake for 90 minutes.

While the ham is baking, add the orange juice, brown sugar, butter and mustard to a small saucepan. Whisk together and heat until it begins to boil; remove from the heat.

Remove and discard the foil. Brush the mixture liberally over the ham, giving it a chance to soak into each individual slice.

Bake for an additional 20 to 25 minutes, or until the ham reaches an internal temperature of 140 F.

Let rest for a few minutes and serve warm. Serves about 12 people, depending on the size of the ham.

See Kitchen, Page A9

WSU:

continued from A5

icine or traditional, human-based community medicine.

We are really thinking a lot about how we create systems that make it easier to be people who live in rural areas, companies that perform in rural areas and businesses that are successful in rural areas. We are inviting the whole state of Washington to come to the table with us.

I, frankly, personally think there are ways we can all think about the future of the combination of technology and human beings in these low-density population areas, that will make those areas much more successful.

Q: How does WSU address gaps as longtime experts depart or retire?

Khosla: The ebb and flow of experts is nothing new to our college and not unique to us, this is happening across our nation.

Even in uncertain times, I know our university is investing dollars where our mouth is. We do not want to lose capacity or competencies near and dear to the stakeholders we serve.

… We are working on funding a new professorship for Christmas tree research. In addition, as of (the week of Oct. 6), we're doing a cluster hire of three endowed positions — one focused on weed research, another on weed extension and yet another on the weed teaching program.

This is something I alone as a dean cannot do. When I present this proposal, I have to get approval from my higher-ups. I had an immediate thumbs up.

This is rare, this does not happen in every institution. Typically we wait for individuals to (exit) out of those positions before we would approve hiring a position. But I have a green light to go forward and fill those positions.

Anywhere from eight to nine months is very typical, because we're talking about going out and hiring the best talent we have in our nation, or elsewhere. To help them not just build the program up, but hit the ground running from day one.

Q: How does agriculture research funding look?

Khosla: Federal funding has been impacted, there's no question about it, but here's the good part of that.

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture has been a very big supporter of our research. They have released much of the funding that was in a pause mode. I can't tell you how critical that funding is for sustaining our agricultural research programs.

Our faculty are actively pursuing grants to support innovation in all facets of agricultural sciences.

The USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant program is now accepting proposals for 2026. Our institutions, particularly CAHNRS, have been a big beneficiary of that program.

In fact, ever since USDA announced that they have opened up the next round of proposals, our faculty proposals are just raining in to the pre-grants office. That's what they tell me, 'How are we going to process all of these proposals?' But that's another challenge.

Q: Do you have a message for Washington farmers and ranchers?

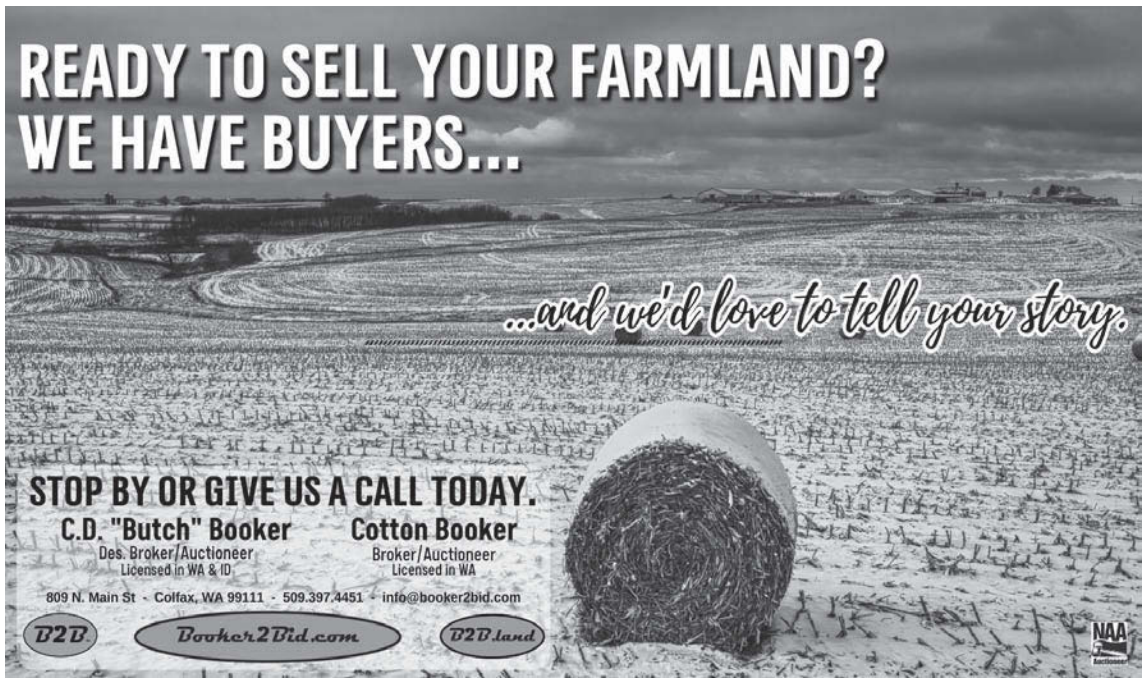
Khosla: As stewards of the land-grant mission, I and we will remain committed, now and more than ever, to service and partner with our agricultural producers, ranchers, land managers and foresters. I know they have depended on WSU and CAHNRS, and we will fulfill our mission to continue to produce a work force that is ready for work.

We continue to work on generating research that increases productivity, efficiency and profitability

See WSU, Page A8



Washington State University College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences Dean Raj Khosla at Spillman Agronomy Farm Sept. 5 in Pullman, Wash. "I'm coming from a state where we have half a dozen commodities to a state that has 300 commodities," Khosla said. "So I don't even know right now what I don't know. But there is positive momentum."
(Robert Hubner/Washington State University Photo Services)



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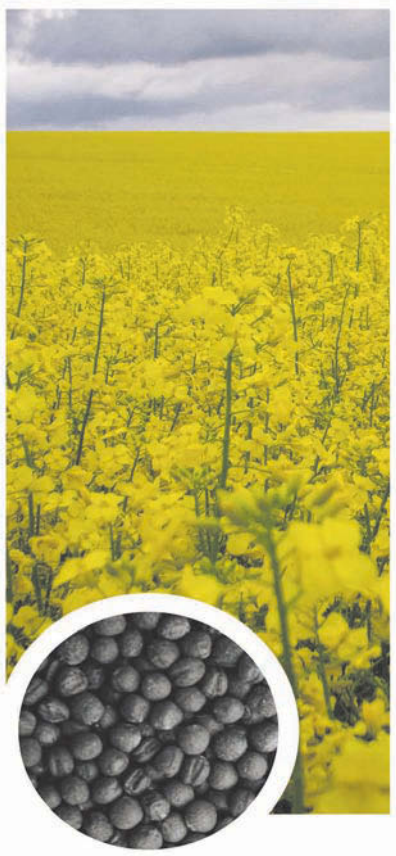
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WSU:

continued from A7

while keeping a firm eye on sustainability, by improving quality, fighting disease and plant pest pathogens; tackling new challenges, feeding the population.

We're good at that and we will continue to do that and keep agriculture and the state of Washington competitive and innovative, making the state an example so others can emulate and follow us. We are the leaders, and will maintain our leadership.

Cantwell: We have an amazing new dean and they should pay attention to him. He will touch their lives a lot more than I do.

The core message is, we so very much continue to be all in on the value of the work and the lives (of) everybody in Washington who is involved in agriculture, from the support of the agricultural mission and the support of the people who live in and work in our agricultural areas.



Washington State University President Elizabeth "Betsy" Cantwell became the 12th president April 1. "My answer to everything is – the first thing we do is say some version of yes," Cantwell said. "Yes, we can figure this out." (Washington State University Photo Services)

When money feels like it's tentative, people in rural areas worry that they're going to be left behind. We are very committed to that mission and believe there are solutions that don't necessarily mean just throwing more money.

We are the innovators that can bring those solutions to the table, for agriculture and for rural people in the state of Washington.

WSU AT A GLANCE

• Number of students system-wide: 25,477 in fall 2025.

• Number of students in CAHNRS: Approximately 2,500 undergraduate and graduate students enrolled across 13 academic units, 22 undergraduate programs and 27 graduate programs.

• CAHNRS employs more than 450 faculty members and 600 staff.

• Cantwell: WSU's 12th president and first woman to hold the position. She previously was Utah State University president and held leadership positions at University of Arizona, Arizona State University and U.S. national security.

• Khosla: Previously head of the Department of Agronomy at Kansas State University. A primary focus has been precision agriculture, using spatial and temporal variability in agri-ecosystems to improve management decisions for producers.

• Budget: WSU's total annual budget for the 2026 fiscal year is $1.3 billion, including all five physical campuses, research centers and county extension office operations. The three largest contributors to that total include: 26% from state appropriations, 19% from student tuition and fees and 13% from federal grants and contracts.

CAHNRS budget for the 2026 fiscal year is $214.9 million.

• Federal funding: WSU faces a projected $24 million loss if the federal indirect cost rate is capped at 15%; $7.3 million in terminated funding and $1.3 million subject to stop-worker orders or having funds frozen.

In the 2025 fiscal year CAHNRS received 625 external awards with a total value of $111.6 million. In the wake of federal policy changes, eight CAHNRS awards were terminated, totaling $4.6 million. The remaining balances on these awards at termination totaled $3.02 million.

Source: Washington State University News and Media Relations

Kitchen:

continued from A6

Olive oil mashed potatoes

Michigan Potato Industry Commission

Ingredients

3 pounds yellow potatoes, such as Yukon gold

5 cloves garlic (papery skin removed)

3 tsp kosher salt for cooking, plus 2 tsp kosher salt to mix in

3-4 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil

¼ cup plain whole milk yogurt or labneh or Greek yogurt

1/3 cup whole milk

½ lemon

1 teaspoon chopped fresh mint

Instructions

Fill a large pot with cold water. Rinse the potatoes and cut them into large (2-inch) chunks. Place them in the water immediately. Add the garlic cloves to the water.

Salt the water with 3 teaspoons of the salt. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to simmer and cook until the potatoes are tender (a sharp knife inserted into them meets no resistance), 20-25 minutes.

Drain the potatoes, making sure to get all of the water out of them. Place the drained potatoes back in the pot and place it on low heat to quickly steam of any residual water, about 30 seconds.

Use a potato masher or hand mixer to mash the potatoes and garlic with 2 tablespoons of the olive oil and the yogurt. Continue mashing, adding the milk a tablespoon or so at a time along with the remaining 2 teaspoons salt, until the potatoes are smooth. Stir in a squeeze of lemon juice. Taste and add more salt, if needed.

Serve warm, with a drizzle of olive oil and dusting of chopped mint on top.



Olive oil mashed potatoes. (Michigan Potato Industry Commission)



One-hour dinner rolls. (Wheat Foods Council)

One-hour dinner rolls

Wheat Food Council

Ingredients

1 1/2 cups warm water

1 tablespoon dried yeast

2 tablespoons sugar

2 tablespoons butter, softened

1 teaspoon salt

4 cups all-purpose flour

Topping:

3 tablespoons butter, melted

2 cloves garlic, finely minced

Directions

In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the dough hook, stir together warm water, yeast, and sugar. Let stand until foamy (this means the yeast has successfully been activated) — about 5 minutes.

To the yeast mixture, add the butter, salt, and half of the flour. Mix on low speed until the ingredients begin to come together. Still on low-speed, add the remaining flour and mix for 1 minute.

Mix on low-speed until the final addition of flour is fully incorporated into the dough. Increase the speed to medium and knead until the dough is smooth and elastic, about 6-8 minutes.

Transfer the dough into a lightly greased large bowl and cover tightly with cling wrap and a dish towel. Let the dough rise in a warm place until doubled in volume, about 20 minutes.

Turn the dough out onto a lightly floured surface and form it into an even ball. Using a dough cutter or knife, cut the dough in half. Roll each half of the dough into a long log. Cut each log into 8 rolls. Roll each one into the shape of a ball.

Line a baking tray with parchment paper. Place each rolled piece of dough about 1 centimeter apart. Cover the rolls with cling wrap and allow to rise again while your oven is preheating to 400°F (200°C). This will take around 20 minutes.While the rolls are rising, mix together the melted butter and minced garlic in a small bowl. Set aside.

When the rolls have risen for the second time and joined together, lightly brush the rolls with half of the melted butter and garlic (reserve the other half for after they are baked). Bake until golden brown, 15-20 minutes. Immediately after removing the rolls from the oven, brush them with the remaining melted butter. After cooling slightly pull apart and serve. Cover and store at room temperature for up to 2 days.

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Blueberry council approves assessment increase request

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press



The USDA approval process for a blueberry assessment increase is expected to take about two years and include a review of public comments. (Courtesy U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council)

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council voted 16-5 to request an assessment increase to $36 per ton for fresh fruit and $30 per ton for processed berries.

The decision, made Oct. 20, could boost demand through additional advertising and promotion efforts.

Some industry leaders considered the vote ill-timed, saying more information and outreach was necessary.

USDA approval process

The USDA approval process for the assessment increase is expected to take about two years, wrote Bryan Sakuma, council chairman, in an online statement.

The agency will review paperwork from the council, consider public comments and present information to Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins to make a final decision.

The assessment rates, if approved, would likely be implemented for domestic growers in 2028.

"As a U.S. blueberry grower, I know firsthand what farmers are facing — from rising input costs to changing market conditions — and all are impacting our margins. It's hard work with no promises and plenty of frustration," Sakuma wrote.

"And I know each of us is doing the best we can to run a profitable operation, to support our families and — for many of us — to create a future that allows us to hand our farms down to our sons and daughters with confidence and pride," he added.

A premature vote

Wally Lierman, Oregon Blueberry Commission chairman, said more information was needed regarding how funds would be used.

"A lot of progress has been made, but the plan is not fully comprehensive, and I believe that the Council is preparing to take action prematurely," Lierman wrote, in an Oct. 13 email to Nathan Sakuma, the council's western region representative.

The Oregon Blueberry Commission remained neutral on the vote, as did the Washington Blueberry Commission.

"It is so divisive. … Margins over time have decreased, and they're going to pull more dollars away from the grower to pay for this," Lierman said, in an interview.

Some growers are concerned they will help promote imported berries from Peru, Chile, Mexico and Canada.

International businesses voluntarily pay blueberry assessments and have pledged to increase that amount above what the domestic industry is charged if the rate increase is approved by the USDA.

More outreach needed

Alan Schreiber, Washington Blueberry Commission executive director, said most Washington blueberry growers were unaware of the council vote.

"I wish there would have been more outreach," he added.

Overall, the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council is doing a great job, Schreiber said.

He was glad the assessment increase request sep-

See Blueberries, Page A11



Washington's Hamp re-elected as National Grange president

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Christine "Chris" Hamp, of Spokane, was re-elected as president of the National Grange Nov. 14 during the national convention.

"Being re-elected is both a tremendous honor and a huge responsibility," Hamp told Capital Press. "It tells me our members believe in the direction we're heading, and trust me to continue guiding this organization into our 160th year and beyond. To me, this isn't just a vote of confidence; it's a call to keep pushing forward."


Hamp

Hamp was first elected in 2023. The president serves a two-year term.

The Grange will mark its 160th anniversary in November 2026 in Broken Arrow, Okla.

"Grange has shaped my life and leading it into the future is that huge responsibility, but one that absolutely gets me excited every single day," Hamp said. "The batteries are charged, we're rarin' to go."

New Granges

Topping Hamp's goals for her next term is to strengthen and grow membership.

"Making sure we're supporting new Granges and revitalizing existing ones," she said. "Elevating the succession planning process, making sure that those next leaders are getting the training and development, and they're ready to be next up."

Grange will refresh its branding, something that hasn't happened in more than six decades, Hamp said, to connect with both new and long-standing membership.

Cruise

The national conference took place Nov. 8-16 on a cruise to the Caribbean islands of Aruba, Bonaire and Curaco.

Hamp considers the event a success. Many members had never been on a cruise before. There was a "strong attendance" from first-time convention attendees, she said.

"It was a push, I think, for a lot of our folks," she said. "I think it exceeded expectations. They loved the energy, the fellowship, the opportunity to experience the Grange in a new environment. We got our work done; we had a whole bunch of fun doing it. We showed that it didn't have to look like it's always looked."

Trusted space

Hamp's goals include positioning Grange as a unifying force in rural America.

"That it's that trusted place our neighbors and friends go in these small communities," she said. "It's that place that's a safe, trusted space, that the information we provide has been well-vetted. In today's world, even moreso, it's so necessary, so needed and very much wanted."

Blueberries:

continued from A10

arated fresh fruit from processed berries.

"Fresh prices are higher, the processed price is lower, so it would make sense those numbers would be different," Schreiber said.

Roughly 70% of Washington's blueberry crop is frozen.

Blueberry assessment increase background

The assessment previously increased in 2012 and stands at $18 per ton.

Two years ago, the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council started talks about building demand to match or surpass surging supply.

Council members had discussed a potential increase to $50 a ton.

A council-commissioned study recommended that amount, adding that if there wasn't a change, growers would see lower prices per pound.

Large Washington harvest, strong demand

Washington's blueberry harvest likely will be its second largest ever after the record crop of 2024, and the quality is much better than the past season, Schreiber said.

Perhaps more important is demand, and there was a shortage of fruit to start the season, he said.

"I can't believe how much demand there is for blueberries. … We're going to have above average yields, we're going to have a big crop and there is strong demand for those blueberries," Schreiber added.

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'07 CASE IH 8010 LL, 2WD duals, 3020 35' $68,800
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'04 CASE IH 450, PTO, 36", 7340 hrs $130,000
'03 CASE IH 450 QUAD, PTO, 36", 10,700 hrs $110,000
'55 IH 300 S/LOADER STRAIGHT $3,500
'23 CASE IH 580 QUAD, PTO, 36", 6v, 1620 hrs $535,000
'22 CASE IH 580 QUAD, PTO, 36", 6v, 2552 hrs $495,000

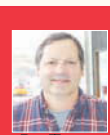
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Southern Idaho juniper removal project advances

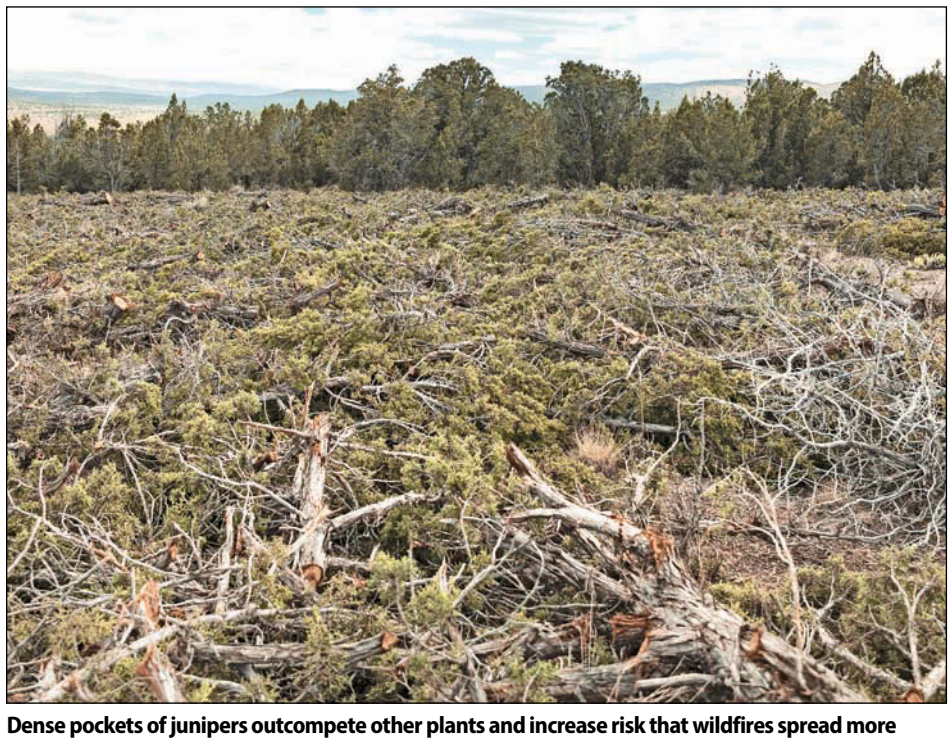
By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Idaho Fish and Game, along with private and public partners, continue to advance a large-scale, multi-year project to remove juniper from sagebrush-steppe habitat in the state's south-central region.

The team since 2022 has treated 5,266 acres including 709 this year, said Brandon Tycz, a Fish and Game habitat biologist based in the Magic Valley regional office in Jerome.

The project is in the southeastern portion of game management unit 54, which encompasses the South Hills from the Twin Falls area east to Burley and south to the Nevada line.

"It is definitely increasing forage for our wildlife," he said.



Dense pockets of junipers outcompete other plants and increase risk that wildfires spread more quickly. (Courtesy Idaho Fish and Game)

Removal key

Juniper removal is a "key component of restoring healthy sagebrush-steppe habitat," according to a Fish and Game news release. As junipers expand into these landscapes, they crowd out native vegetation, increase wildfire risk and "reduce habitat quality for many wildlife species. Removing encroaching junipers helps reduce fuels, improve plant diversity and restore natural conditions that historically were maintained through periodic wildfire."

Partners in the juniper removal project — cutting occurs in early fall, typically — include the U.S. Forest Service, Pheasants Forever, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service and the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation.

By working closely with dedicated partners, Fish and Game "continues to carry out meaningful, science-driven habitat restoration efforts that benefit Idaho's wildlife and the people who value these landscapes," according to the release.

Junipers are native and "do have value," Tycz said. But historically, junipers and sagebrush formed a mosaic of alternating open and occupied spaces.

"Essentially, when we get these thick pockets of junipers, they can outcompete forage" for deer, elk and sage grouse, he said. Dense ground coverage by junipers also reduces water available to plants and wildlife and creates a contiguous fuel source for wildfire.

Junipers, which consume substantial water volume, encroached sagebrush-steppe landscapes largely due to years of active suppression of wildfires, according to a Fish and Game video highlighting the removal project.

Forage plants are faring better, water supply is improving and the wildfire fuel load is more broken up — and less susceptible to rapid spread of fire — thanks to the juniper removal project and other work by the partners in recent years, Tycz said.

Beyond juniper removal, Fish and Game carries out south-central region habitat improvement projects including spraying nonnative cheatgrass, planting shrub seedlings, removing other vegetation to form fuel breaks, aerial seeding after fires, and using prescribed fires to promote aspen regeneration, according to the release.

This year, some 31,500 sagebrush seedlings were planted on ground scarred by the 2020 Badger Fire that burned about 91,000 acres, Tycz said.

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It's the Pitts: Little and loveable

I've been surrounded by a variety of animals my entire life including our turtle who we called Rock because he moved about as fast as one.

Our Rock is not to be confused with the gag gift that was popular called the Pet Rock® which came long after our pet Rock.

We got Rock as a baby and he was the perfect pet as we never had to feed him or pick up his poop.

Fact is, we only saw Rock about once a year.

We had way too many cows and sheep to individually name and granted, they were treated more like a commodity than a pet. But there were many creatures that became so special they became part of our family.

Nine times out of 10 they were lovable little babies that were handicapped, orphaned or their mother took one look at them and headed for the hills.

One of our favorites was Two Car, so named because the leppy calf spent the first few months of his life in our garage.



Lee Pitts

We were leasing a ranch but we lived about 30 minutes away, that was unless when the bridge was out, which it often was in winter, which meant going to and from the ranch took an hour and a half.

So when Two Car's mother died giving birth to him it became a lot easier to feed him three times a day at our house which was right in the middle of a subdivision.

I can only imagine what the neighbors thought when Two Car started bawling in the middle of the night for his midnight feeding.

Eventually Two Car became quite the celebrity and everyone who heard about the orphan wanted to have their picture taken as they bottle fed him. When the bottle ran dry he'd try to suck their kneecaps off.

TO THIS DAY I OFTEN BLAME MYSELF AND WONDER IF WE'D HAVE GIVEN ANGEL ONE MORE WEEK MAYBE SHE WOULD HAVE FOUND HER FOOTING IN LIFE.

One little lamb will live forever in our hearts.

We never knew what caused Angel to be unable to stand on her own four legs. We'd had lambs do this before only to start walking after a few days, but Angel never did.

I made a sling for Angel and hung her from a tree with her feet barely touching the ground. We gave the poor thing a bottle three times a day for three weeks but we were gradually losing her.

Usually I reluctantly took care of euthanizing our dying creatures but this is the one animal I never could bring myself to do it. So we took Angel to our friend the Vet and asked if he would give Angel the needle after we'd left. I bet he thought my wife and I were big wimps.

To this day I often blame myself and wonder if we'd have given Angel one more week maybe she would have found her footing in life.

People who've never been around a baby pig might think it odd that a person could fall in love with such a creature but then, they never knew Pancakes.

We got Pancakes because she was the runt of a big litter and the man who owned her had a hard heart. I guess you could say we saved Pancake's life, but she rewarded us daily with a good dose of comic relief.

Not to mention the occasional nightmare, like the time she erupted from under an avocado tree and charged the entire local chapter of the Daughters of The American Revolution as they left the monthly meeting, arms filled with pieces of my mom's cream pies. There was carnage and whip cream everywhere.

After such an escape there was only one way we could lure Pancakes back into her pen and that was to bribe her with some of my mom's pancakes.

One of the highlights of my life these days is eat lunch monthly with a rancher I've known since college.

Tiny is a big man with an even bigger heart but at our last visit Tiny looked exhausted but with good reason: he had five calves on the bottle.

Trying to get a good laugh I told Tiny some of the names of the orphans, leppies and bummers we'd raised but he easily won the day when he told me the best name ever for an orphaned animal.

I spewed soup from every orifice on my face when he said... "Michelle No-mama."

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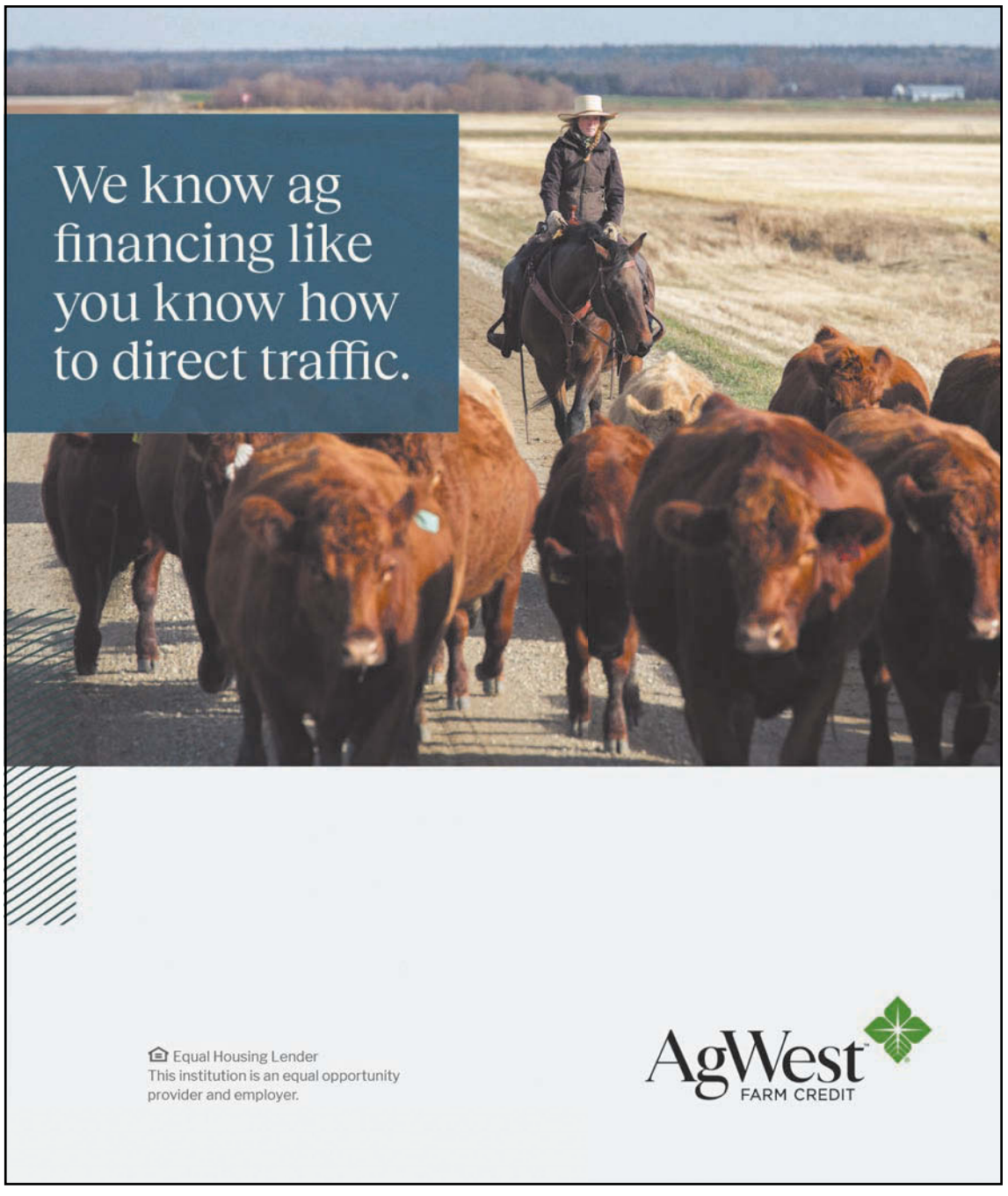
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For Oregon dairy farmers, organic niche and staying small were keys for profitability

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press



Logan Cardoza and his parents Travis and Allison Cardoza are the only workers at Cardoza Dairy near Scio, Ore. "We knew we wanted to stay small and not have very many employees," Travis Cardoza said. (Kyle Odegard, Capital Press)

SCIO, Ore. — Travis and Allison Cardoza said when they crunched the numbers, tapping into a premium niche by going organic was the only way to make their dairy operation pencil out.

The organic segment continues to grow with demand outstripping local supply, they added.

"As people are realizing where their food comes from, they're more interested in healthy options," Travis Cardoza said.

He added that running a small, organic dairy herd is ideal as opposed to scaling up in pursuit of profits.

"It's simple. It's less stressful. It's just better," Cardoza said.

The couple and their youngest son Logan Cardoza, who just graduated from high school, are the only workers at Cardoza Dairy, which aims to stay small.

The family milks 130 cows, producing 2 million pounds per year and selling to the Organic Valley cooperative.

"We do have milking robots, so that makes it doable," Travis Cardoza said. The family has two robotic milkers and is adding a third.

The devices helped boost milk production substantially. Cows are able to go into the parlors at their own leisure, which means more milkings per day.

"The cows love them and you don't have the labor of milking twice a day anymore," Travis Cardoza said.

See Dairy, Page A15

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Dairy:

continued from A14

Cardoza Dairy family background

The Cardozas are high school sweethearts who grew up in California's Central Valley.

They operated a dairy farm for five years in Red Bluff, Calif., but said their leased land became outrageously expensive.

Almond and walnut growers expanded, putting upward pressure on farmland prices, and the cost of irrigation water also increased.

Cardoza's stepfather and brother had moved their dairy operation to Oregon and told him of greener pastures to the north.

So the Cardozas moved to the foothills of the Cascades in 2012, leasing 80 acres with an option to buy.

They started with 40 cows, grew the herd and assumed ownership of the property five years later.

Organic industry award

In September, Cardoza Dairy was honored at the 2025 Oregon Organic Awards for Excellence celebration as the farm of the year for livestock or dairy.



Cows wait to enter milking parlors at Cardoza Dairy. The farm produces roughly 2 million pounds of milk every year for the Organic Valley cooperative, which is seeking more dairy farmers in Oregon and Washington. (Kyle Odegard, Capital Press)

The Oregon Organic Coalition noted that the farm's pasture-based system protects soil health and produces healthy, organic dairy.

Cardoza said being able to graze their land also alleviated high feed costs and helped the bottom line.

The Cardozas have advocated at the Oregon Capitol for more organic processing plants to meet demand.

Organic Valley is short on milk currently and looking for additional farmers, said Allison Cardoza, who works for the cooperative as its regional pool manager, helping about 50 dairies in Oregon and Washington.

Advice for new dairy farmers

Travis Cardoza wasn't sure he would encourage someone to start a dairy from scratch because of the tight margins and long hours.

His dairy farm's small size meant there were stretches where he didn't have a day off for three or four years.

Nevertheless, Cardoza had advice for those willing to take a risk.

New farmers need to take care of pastures and make sure their cows are always fed properly, as herd health equals milk quality.

They also must possess maintenance skills. "You need to learn how to weld, learn how to do your plumbing, learn basic electrical and mechanical knowledge," Cardoza said.

Farmers will save thousands of dollars a year by making small fixes themselves.

"Find a mentor, someone you trust and has been successful in the business," Allison Cardoza added.

An experienced dairy farmer can help with planning and quickly spot potential problems for a farm and its finances, the Cardozas added.

CARDOZA DAIRY

Location: Outside Scio, Ore.

Family: Owners Travis and Allison Cardoza, and sons Ford Cardoza and Logan Cardoza.

About the farm: The Cardozas milk 130 cows and sell to the Organic Valley cooperative, which Allison Cardoza works for.

Beef-on-dairy: The Cardozas sell some beef-on-dairy calves, but only because they lose very few replacement heifers and want to maintain the size of their closed herd.

Family farming history: Travis Cardoza's great-grandfather immigrated from Portugal and started a dairy in Humboldt County, Calif.

Succession plan: Logan Cardoza, who just graduated from high school, wants to continue working at the farm and could take it over one day.

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Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2013	JD	635F	635F PLATFORM W/ CART	N/A	$13,999	COLFAX
2018	MD	FD75	MACDON FD75 45' PLATFORM	N/A	$68,999	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
2011	CA	7088H	CASE IH, SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER, PLATFORM	3387	$119,999	COLFAX
2015	JD	S690	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	3768	$209,999	MOSCOW
2019	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	1873	$422,999	FOUR LAKES
2021	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	846	$475,999	MOSCOW
2023	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, 2WD, DUALS, LEVEL LAND	317	$547,999	FOUR LAKES
2021	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	483	$569,999	MOSCOW

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2024 JOHN DEERE 612R $589,999

COLFAX

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Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2023	DM	LT42	DEMCO SPRAY TRAILER, QUICK-DRAW, PUMP REMOTE START HONDA	N/A	$116,999	COLFAX
2014	JD	1890	AIR DRILL, 40FT, 7.5" SPACING, SEED BOX, STARTER KIT	N/A	$169,999	FOUR LAKES
2015	JD	1890-1910	AIR DISC DRILL, 36FT, 7.5" SPACING, 1910 CART	N/A	$169,999	TEKOA
2022	JD	N540C	AIR DRILL, 40FT, 7.5" SPACING, CCS	N/A	$193,999	COLFAX
2022	AP	4712-SL	AGPRO 4712-AL NO-TILL DRILL	N/A	$299,999	COLFAX
2021	JD	R4044	SPRAYER, 132' CF BOOM, EXACTAPPLY	2048	$324,999	FOUR LAKES
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
2019	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' CF BOOM, EXACTAPPLY, DUALS	1014	$399,999	TEKOA

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FOUR LAKES: 509-483-2868 | PONDERAY: 208-265-7282

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KIOTI MFWD, LOADER, 115 HP, HOURS: 203

Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
1999	JD	9300	4WD, DUALS	9458	$46,999	MOSCOW
1996	JD	9400	4WD, DUAL PTO	12541	$49,999	COLFAX
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
2023	JD	6140M	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES	329	$165,499	FOUR LAKES
2013	JD	8335R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	6293	$174,999	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	$224,999	MOSCOW
2017	CA	IH380	CASE IH RCWTRAC, 24" TRACKS, CVT, 3PT/PTO	2588	$225,999	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
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

HAY EQUIPMENT



2023 JOHN DEERE W235M $180,999

FOUR LAKES

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

Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2007	JD	348	BALER, SQUARE	11000	$11,999	PONDERAY
2015	JD	830	MOWER CONDITIONER 9'8" CUT WIDTH	NA	$18,999	TEKOA
2016	MD	M155E4	WINDROWER, 16' DOUBLE AUGER HEAD	2101	$65,999	TEKOA
2018	JD	L341	LARGE SQUARE BALER, TANDEM	N/A	$87,999	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
2020	JD	W235	WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, STEEL CONDITIONER	635	$163,999	MOSCOW



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CERTIFIED EQUIPMENT APPRAISALS!

TRACTORS



CAT CHALLENGER MT835, 4840 hrs, 3 pt. No PTO.....$99,500



2012 CAT CHALLENGER MT765D, 3762 hrs, PTO, 3 pt, 30" tracks in great shape, guide blocks have been bolted on, has complete weight package, spent about $4,000 on hydraulic upgrades, Trimble CFX750 system. Tractor is in great shape!.....$120,000



2008 JD 9430T, 9566 hrs, pto, tracks are in good shape, complete engine rebuild less than a year ago, W/JD Starfire 3000 gps & JD GS3 2630 satellite $99,500



CASE 416C BACKHOE W/7783 HRS $19,500



CASE IH 9250, PTO, 4WD, 8553 hrs, new starter, new battery, ac completely rebuilt, only 30 hrs on $16,000 worth of new tires with beet juice $40,000



CAT 966C LOADER $25,000



CAT 65E, pto, one owner, approx 16,000 hrs.....$35,000

HAY EQUIPMENT



NEW HOLLAND BC5080 SMALL BALER, good shape $20,000



TWINSTAR HAY RAKE, everything is tight, good shape.....$9,000

TILLAGE



PARMA 16' CULTIPACKER, crow feet packers on front, solid packers on rear, 4 rows of teeth.....$15,000



56' WIL-RICH QUADX CULTIVATOR $25,000



2023 35' GREAT PLAINS 3500TM TURBO-MAX VERTICAL TILLAGER, has implement command, approximately 8,000 acres on machine, good shape.....$100,000



40' PACKERS ON CART $7,500



60' SUMMERS SUPER 5-BAR HARROW $12,500



MCFARLANE 70' 16-BAR FLEX HARROW, 5 1/2" teeth, good shape $25,000



AG-PRO 185D 30' 12" SPACING.....$5,500



32' BOURGAULT 9400 12" SPACING $20,000



1979 MERRITT 45' ALUMINUM CATTLE TRAILER, also has hog panels, brakes 75%, floors 30%, 11×24.5 radials 50%.....$15,000



2015 VOLVO D13 500 HP, auto trans, 804,500 miles $15,000



2000 IH 4200 GALLON, stainless steel, 9 sp, Cummins, approximately 635,000 miles, front & rear spray, pumps.....$40,000

SPRAYERS



RIVER BEND 90' BOOMS, new nozzle bodies 20" sp hydraulic driven pump Trimble system, 3 pt, (2) 500 gal side mount $7,500



2017 BESTWAY FIELDPRO IV, Serial #30433-15, 1800 gal, 100' booms, JD Rate Controller 2000 .....$18,500

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DRILLS



JD 9400 10' HOE DRILLS, 12" spacing, Stoess hitch.....$15,000



1996 GREAT PLAINS 2000 20' SOLID STAND DOUBLE-DISC DRILL, 6" spacing, 3 pt.....$12,500



35' JD 455 DRILLS, 8" spacing ...$27,500



12' MILLER OFFSET DISC, 22" blades..... .....$3,500

TRANSPORTATION



1996 FL, 20' bed, hoist, slip tank, tarp, auger, hitch. Detroit Series 60, 430 hp, jake brake, 10 sp, approximately 292,500 miles.....$42,000



2000 53' MERRITT GOLD LINE TRIAXLE, 102" wide, front deck boards, floors good shape, brakes 50%, tires 60%.....$35,000



2003 STERLING L70, 245,000 miles, CAT engine, 7 sp non synchro trans, 20' bed, hoist, slip tank, air brakes.....$12,500



2004 IH WATER TRUCK, 4200 gal stainless steel tank, auto trans, Cummins N14, 370 hp, approximately 128,000 miles $40,000

HARVEST



10"X70' AUGER WITH SWING OUT HOPPER $3,500



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



1994 WILSON 45' 3-AXLE HOPPER BOTTOM GRAIN TRAILER W/TARP.... .....$20,000



2014 JD S680, 2,633 sep hours. good tires, JD 635D 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-S Draper header & cart.....$114,500



2013 BRENT 882 GRAIN CART, 30.5×32 tires in good shape, well maintained $25,000

QUADTRACS

'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

4WD 150-HP & OVER

'08 JD 9430, 6250 Hrs, 710/70R42 Tires, Hyd Flow 44 GPM, 4 Hyd Outlets, AutoTrac Ready, 1000 PTO, 3PT.....~~$159,900~~ $149,900

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

CASEIH 9380Q, 13,000 Hour, 36" Tracks, 4 Remotes.....$29,900



'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

'08 JD 8530, 8200 Hrs, 420/85R34 Fronts, 480/80R50 Rear Duals, MFWD, 4 Hyd Outlets, 1000 PTO, 3PT.....~~$139,900~~ $129,900

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

'23 CASE IH STEIGER 470 AFS CONNECT, 981 hrs 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 Cap Roof Work Lights, 710/70R42 R1 Duals, Wheel Weights, Ballast Package, Rear Weight Support, Tow Cable.....~~$368,000~~ $358,000

'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~~ $379,900

'22 CASE IH PUMA 150, 668 HRS, 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~~ $199,900

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 Rears, Consigned.....$115,000

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

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

12 Month Waiver of Interest on ALL Contracts over $350K (O.A.C.) Call for Details

DRILLS

'20 CASE IH 3555, 555 Bushels, High Floatation-Hydraulic Control, Deluxe Auger Screen, 650/75R38 High Float 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 Switch.....$174,900

'15 CASEIH FH700, 60'x12", High Floatation, 550LB Trips, 5.5" Rubber Press Wheels, Air TBT, Double Shoot.....$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~~ $29,900

'03 FLEXI-COIL 5000HD, 45' single shoot, liquid deep band set-up, 12" spacing, 5.5" rubber press wheels, 5" paired row boots.....$68,900

'02 FLEXI-COIL 3450, Tow Behind Air Cart, Variable Rate, Dual Fan, Consigned.....$15,900

JD 1910, 3 Tank, 12" Conveyer, Tow Between, New Fan Housing, Duals, Single Shoot.....$74,900

JD 1890, 60', 7.5" Spacing, Blockage Monitor.....$91,000

'19 NH3 RAVEN SYSTEM CART, Custom Made NH3 Cart w/800 Gallon Bottle, Raven NH3 Components, Shut-Off & Control 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 Sileage, Endless Belt, Net and Twine, DLX Wrap, 18L1.6 Tires, Dual Wheels, Manual Hyd Pickup Lift, 5 Bar Reel, Roller Windguard, Clevis Hitch.....~~$42,900~~ $39,900

'10 NH BB9080, Big Baler, Tandem Axle, Roller Chute, Cons.....$30,000

'03 NH 580, 16x18 Bale, Hydraulic Pick-up, Bale Extension, ¼ Turn Chute, Newer Knotters , Consigned.....$13,900

JD 468, Mega Wide Plus Round Baler, 21.5l-16.1 SL Tires, 540 PTO, Twine Only, Wid Picku-up, Monitor.....$12,900

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

'13 NH BC5080, 16x18 Chute, Hydraulic Swing, Hydraulic Pickup, Light Kit, Bale Extention.....$15,900

'02 CASE IH LBX431R, 3x4 Big Square Baler, Apx 30k Bales, Rotor Cut, Cons.....$19,900

MOWERS

JD 946, Mower Conditioner, 13' Cutter Bar, Center Pivot, Flail Conditioner, Hydraulic Angle Adjust, Regular Maintenance, Consigned.....$18,500

TELEHANDLERS

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

SKID STEERS

'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 E-H Controls, Steel Lights, Glass Door, High Flow PKG, Heavy Duty Rear Door, Eco Disc Mulcher Attachment, Great Condition, Consigned.....$135,000

HARROWS

(6) STOESS 4000, 10 1/2' Rodweeders, No Hitch, Consigned $2,000 EA

PLOWS

IH 800, 10-bottom plow, walking beam in center, good moldboards, good landsides and pads.....$5,600

(2) IH 770, 5 Bottom, Auto Reset, Good Tires, New Mold Boards Included, Consigned.....~~$3,295 EA~~ $2,595 EA

!!!MACDON HEADERS!!!

'13 MacDon FD75.....~~$59,900~~ $52,900
'15 MacDon FD75.....~~$57,900~~ $55,900
'15 MacDon FD75.....~~$69,900~~ $64,900
Call for more details!

HAY

ALLEN 8827, Hydraulic Basket Rake, Electric Controls, Newer Tines, Teeth and Bearing are in Good Shape.....$9,900

TWINSTAR RA-2030, V-Rake, Twin Baskets, 5 Function, Guage Wheels, Control Box.....$17,500

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

GRAIN CARTS

BRENT V1100, 1000 PTO, Tarp, Flighting in Good Shape, 900/60R32 Alliance Tires.....$59,900

SWATHERS

'13 MACDON-PW7,16' Rake Up Header.....$19,900

SPRAYERS/APPLICATORS

'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~~ $249,900

'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 Pro700, AIM Command Flex, AutoBoom Height Control, Combo Rate Dual Body Shut-Off.....~~$195,000~~ $184,900

'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~~ $154,900

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~~ $125,900

JD 4940, 3892 Hrs, 120' Booms, 1200 Gallon Tank, GS3 Display, Starfire ITC Receiver, Boom Trac Pro, 11 Sections, Air Suspension.....$84,900

FLEXI-COIL S67XL, Pull Type Sprayer, 1500 Gallon Tank, 100' Suspended Boom, Raven Auto-Boom Height control.....$12,900

'24 JD 616R, 529 Hrs, Signature Edition, 1600 Gallon Tank, 120' Boom, Exact Apply, Command Drive, Boom Trac Pro 2, Integrated StarFire 7500 Receiver, G5 Plus Command Center Display, LSW 800/55F46 Floats, Set of Skinny's and Fenders to Match.....$569,000

SCHABAU SF.8500, 90' Boom, 1500 Gallon Tank, 100 Gallon Rinse Tank, Tripple 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 ¼" 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, 120' Carbon Fiber Booms, Dual Monitor Display, Starfire 6000 Receiver, G4 O.S., 120 Gal Tank, Front Load Valve, Stainless Induction, Air Suspension, 620/70R46 Tires, 20" Nozzle Spacing, Backup Camera, LED Light Pkg, Fenders, Premium Command View, Autotrac Guidance, Rowsense, Section Control, Exact Apply Nozzle Control System.....$284,900

HILLSIDE COMBINES

'23 CASE IH 8250, Luxury Cab w/Leather Seat, Harvest Command, w/ Camera, Power+ CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Pro 700 Nav Controller 267 Hrs.....$654,900

(2) '23 Case IH 8250, Luxury Cab w/Leather Seat, Harvest Command, w/Camera, Power+ CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Pro 700 Nav Controller 652 Hrs.....$558,900

737 Hrs.....$545,900

'14 CASE IH 8230, 1924 Sep Hours, 520/85R42 Duals, 600/65RS8 Rears, Chopper, GPS.....$129,900

'05 CASE IH 8010, 3554 Engine Hours, 4WD, Leveler, '12 CIH 3020 35' Header Included, Cons.....$119,900

CASE IH 1680, 6900 Engine Hours, Hillco 2000 Leveler, Rear Weights, Great Condition, Consigned.....$12,000

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

'25 Case IH 8260, 249 Sep Hrs, Hillco Leveler, Harvest Command Automation w/Camera, Power+ CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Lux Cab w/ Leather Seat, Pro 1200 Large Color Touch Screen, Telematics, Ext Wear Rotor w/Spikes, 50' Unloading Auger.....$708,500

'25 CaseIH 9260, Harvest Command Automation w/Camera, Power+ CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Luxury Cab w/Leather Seat, Pro1200 Large Color Touch Screen, Independent Cross Auger Control.....

234 Sep Hrs.....$729,500

353 Sep Hrs.....$714,500

'21 CaseIH 9250, 1513 Sep Hrs, Luxury Cab, AM/FM/BT Radio, Pro 700, Large Color Touch Screen, Autoguidance Nav Controller, Hillco Lvlr, Command Automation, Power+ CVT Drive w/Feedrate, Yield Monitor, Harvest Command w/Cameras, Auto Cleaning Fan, Block Heater, Independent Cross Auger Control, Diff Lock.....$439,900

'21 CaseIH 8250, 1209 Sep Hrs, Hillside, Lux Cab, Autoguidance, Yield Monitor, HVSTC w/Camera, PowerPlus CVT Drive w/Feedrate, 40' Auger w/ Pivoting Spout, Upper Cross Auger Control, Large Color Touch Screen, Diff Lock, 650/65R38 Duals.....$524,900

'08 Case IH 2588, 3100 Hep Hrs, Hillside, 4WD, Very Clean..$64,900

LEVEL LAND

'17 CASE IH 8240, 1484 Sep Hrs, Level Land, Duals, 4WD, Chopper, Guidance, Folding Auger.....~~$179,900~~ $169,900

'15 CASE IH 9240, 2297 Rotor Hours, Level Land.....~~$159,900~~ $149,900

'13 CASE IH 8230, level land, 2261-Sep-hrs, header tilt, rock trap, cross-auger control, fine cut chopper, HID lights, Diff lock, AFS autosteer, 520 front duals, 750/85R42 rear.....~~$124,900~~ $115,900

'02 CASE IH 2388, 3458-Sep-hrs, level land, feeder reverser, single spd hydro, 2WD, 20.8x42 duals, 18.4x26 rears, new rub bars, Field Tracker.....~~$24,900~~ $19,900

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Dairy-anchored Idaho CAFE project gets federal funds

Capital Press staff



Rachael Bickerton, University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences director of government and external relationships, left, describes the CAFE milking parlor to a group including members of the state Permanent Building Fund advisory council during a May 2025 tour. (Bill Schaefer photo courtesy UI)

The dairy-anchored Idaho Center for Food, Agriculture and the Environment under construction near Rupert is slated to receive additional federal funding.

The fiscal 2026 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration Appropriations Bill, which President Donald Trump signed, includes $3 million in Community Project Funding for Idaho CAFE, Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, said in a news release. Simpson, who serves on the House Appropriations Committee, secured the funding.

The funding is for construction of a flexible manure handling and treatment system to be used for testing and evaluating manure separation and nutrient extraction technologies. The new funding builds on earlier investments that supported research equipment storage and a shop facility for USDA's Agricultural Research Service at the ARS Kimberly, Idaho, site, and the building of a basic manure separation facility.

The additional funding will enable creation of an advanced manure research facility at CAFE, with multiple treatment technologies and enhanced nutrient recovery to maximize research outcomes and technology development.

CAFE, to cost about $45 million, is a partnership among the University of Idaho, industry and government. It will feature the nation's largest research dairy, university officials have said. Milking operations are slated to begin early next year, starting with about 400 cows.

First-phase construction included major earth work and a milking barn with modern rotary parlor that includes automation technology. Construction this year has included maternity and commodity barns, and classroom space with an advanced facility for distance learning.

"Throughout my time in Congress, I have proudly worked to ensure that Idaho's agriculture can continue to thrive," Simpson said in the release. "Like many Idaho agriculture sectors, the dairy industry plays a critical role in our state's economy."

"Securing funding for this world-class research center is crucial for promoting long-term sustainability in Idaho's agriculture industry," he said. "I am committed to supporting Idaho's dairy industry and ensuring our tax dollars are being put to work right here at home."

Simpson's "tireless work to secure this critical funding for Idaho CAFE enables us to fulfill our land-grant mission and conduct applied research that will benefit Idaho's dairy farmers," UI agriculture dean Leslie Edgar said in the release. "By working together, we will ensure that the Idaho dairy industry has the necessary data and tools for continued success."

"This vital community project strengthens both the University of Idaho and the state's dairy industry," Idaho Dairymen's Association CEO Rick Naerebout said. "CAFE will provide dairy farmers and researchers the opportunity to test new strategies and technologies on a true-to-scale Idaho dairy, helping the industry advance through applied research and innovation."

The project secured federal community project funding of $1 million in February 2023 and $2 million in March 2024, according to the university.

In 2022, food company Chobani committed $1 million and the Idaho Land Board authorized $23.25 million from a sale of endowment land in Caldwell that UI no longer used for experimental farming.

The legislature in 2017 appropriated $10 million from the state Permanent Building Fund, and this year appropriated $250,000 toward maintenance of the milking parlor building.

In March 2019, land was purchased for the dairy in partnership with the Dairymen's Association, according to UI.

PROJECT DETAIL

https://www.uidaho.edu/research/statewide/agriculture-food-environment



Trump narrows WOTUS definition, stirring Clean Water Act controversy

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

The federal government has narrowed the "waters of the U.S." definition, potentially triggering a new legal battle over whether it's scaled back Clean Water Act enforcement too far, experts say.

Legal experts were anticipating the Trump administration would put its own stamp on Clean Water Act regulations, as the rules were most recently revised two years ago by the Biden administration.

Each set of regulations interprets the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling that itself constrained Clean Water Act jurisdiction in 2023 by adopting a more restrictive definition of "waters of the U.S.," or WOTUS, which determines which waterways and wetlands are subject to the law. The question now becomes whether the Trump administration's interpretation conforms with the Supreme Court's decision, or whether it has limited Clean Water Act jurisdiction further than the nation's highest court intended, experts say.

"I don't think anyone is expecting this to not face legal challenges," said Brigit Rollins, a staff attorney with the National Agricultural Law Center who tracks Clean Water Act regulations. "This rule will be finalized, and then it's just a matter of how quickly lawsuits are going to be filed. I think we can expect them to be filed very quickly. I would be surprised if there are not groups working on that already."

See Water, Page B4





Water:

continued from B3

New requirement

An important aspect of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new WOTUS proposal is the requirement that waterways or water bodies be continuously flowing, at least during the water season, to come under federal Clean Water Act authority, she said.

Tributaries must be flowing for a substantial amount of time and share a bed and bank with traditional WOTUS waterways to come under federal authority under the proposal, she said.

Similar requirements also apply to wetlands, which not only must have a continuous surface water and abut a traditionally navigable waterway that meets the WOTUS definition, Rollins said.

"Say you have a larger wetland complex where only part of the complex shares that continuous surface connection," she said. "They're looking at limiting jurisdiction to only that part of the wetland that has that continuous surface connection with the water otherwise recognized as WOTUS."

Also, the proposed Trump regulations do not automatically consider waterways that cross state lines to fit the WOTUS definition, which is a departure not only from the Biden rules but also older Clean Water Act regulations dating back to the 1980s, she said.

"I think these are some of the areas where we're really going to be seeing a lot of pushback from the environmental community," she said.

Indeed, the Food & Water Watch nonprofit believes the proposal's interpretation of the Supreme Court opinion is aimed at "gutting as many Clean Water Act protections from as many waterways as possible," said Tarah Heinzen, its legal director.

Even though federal courts and the federal government have long understood that wetlands "adjacent" to traditionally navigable waterways are covered by the Clean Water Act, the EPA has now construed this language "as narrowly as possible" to mean "abutting," Heinzen said.

Similarly, the agency's requirement that tributaries flow throughout the year, or at least during the wet season, undermines the law's goal of protecting the "chemical, physical and biological integrity" of waterways, she said.

"All of this effort to claw back waterways from Clean Water Act protection is inherently contrary to the purpose of the Act," Heinzen said.

On the other hand, provisions limiting the Clean Water Act's reach are cited as the proposal's strengths by the Pacific Legal Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to protecting property rights.

The new proposal "much better aligns" with the language in the Supreme Court's 2023 ruling that was basically ignored by the Biden administration, such as the requirement that the line between wetlands and traditionally navigable waterways be indistinguishable, said Damien Schiff, senior attorney at PLF.

The latest interpretation also recognizes that wetlands shouldn't be regulated unless they meet all the necessary legal conditions, "in contrast to the prior administration's approach, according to which if just one small part of a wetland had a continuous surface connection, the entire wetland — potentially hundreds of acres — could be regulated," Schiff said.

Finalized in 2026

The Trump administration's version of the WOTUS regulations is likely to become final in 2026, after which legal challenges could result in an injunction halting the rule from going into effect, based on past experience, Rollins said.

Over the past decade, WOTUS regulations have repeatedly been blocked by federal judges in at least some states, she said.

"Past performance is not necessarily a crystal ball to what future performance could look like, but will nevertheless maybe offer some helpful insights to what could happen," she said.

For farmers, the new proposal clarifies that wetlands in "prior converted croplands," which are exempt from regulation as WOTUS, would keep that exemption even if they're periodically fallowed for conservation purposes, Rollins said.

More broadly, landowners involved in agriculture and other industries have long called for a "bright line rule" that helps them understand more clearly when waterways will be regulated as WOTUS or not, she said.

The new proposal brings the WOTUS definition closer to such a bright line, though that's likely to remain an unachievable ideal in some circumstances, simply due to the complexities of water systems, Rollins said.

"It's a very challenging thing for the agency to implement via a regulatory definition, because water changes and things are not the same in Arizona as they are in Maine, for example," she said. "For those who are looking for a much clearer, more bright line standard, I would say that while this rule is moving toward that, it's a very lofty goal that might not be fully accomplished by this rule."

People may also be disappointed if they're hoping for the Trump administration's proposal to bring about the "final chapter of WOTUS" with a more durable definition that "stands the test of time," Rollins said.

"Personally, I think we can expect to see quite a bit more back-and-forth," she said. "I think this is merely the latest chapter, as opposed to the end of the book."





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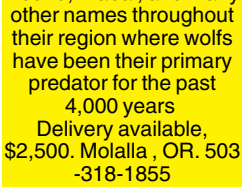
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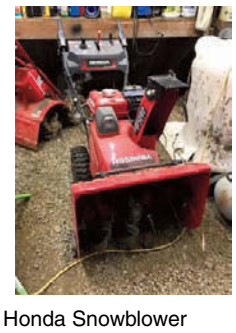
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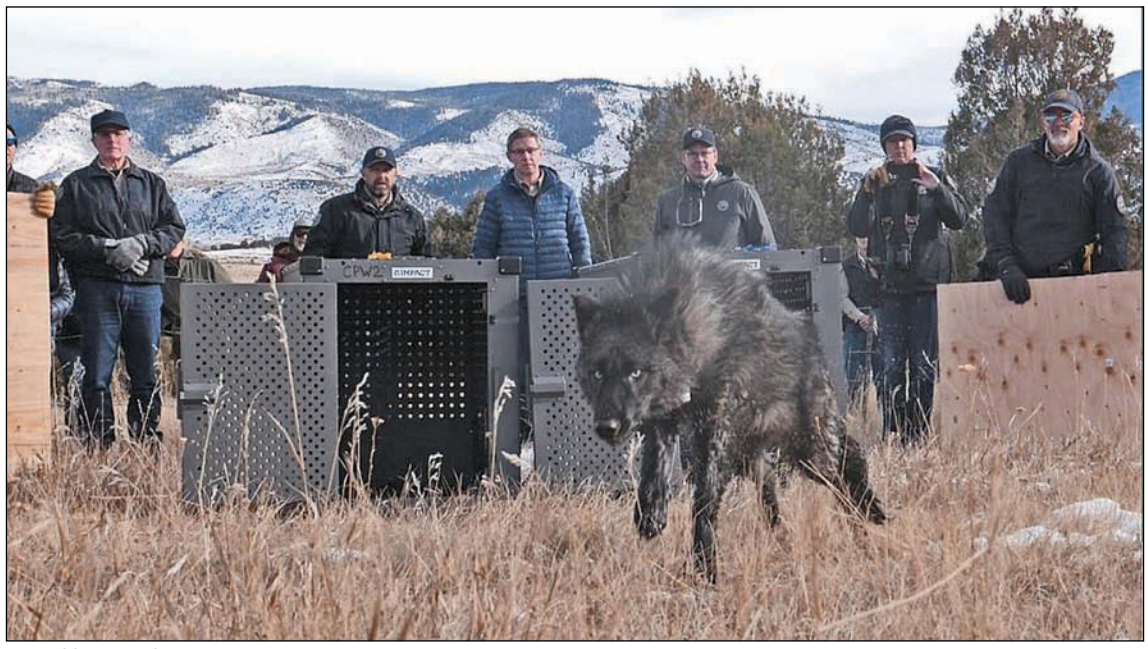
No wolves for Colorado, Washington wildlife commission says

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission has rejected a request to donate 15 wolves to Colorado, with some commissioners saying it would be strange to give away a state endangered species.

The commission dismissed the plea from Colorado Parks and Wildlife in an 8-1 vote Nov. 15 at a meeting in Lynwood, Wash. The trip from Washington to Colorado would be hard on wolves, some commissioners said.

It also would contradict the commission's decision last year to keep wolves on the state endangered species list, even though Fish and Wildlife biologists said the state's wolves were no longer endangered.



A wolf flown in from Oregon is released in Colorado in 2023. Washington declines to spare any wolves to establish wolves in Colorado. (Photo courtesy of Colorado Parks and Wildlife)

"It would be odd to keep the wolves listed and then to take them out of the state," Commission Chairman Jim Anderson said.

Colorado voters passed an initiative to reintroduce wolves. So far, Colorado has released 10 wolves from Oregon and 15 from British Columbia. Ten of the 25 have not survived.

"THEY ARE NOT CARING FOR WOLVES WELL, YET THEY HAVE THE AUDACITY TO ASK FOR MORE."

—Francisco Santiago-Avila, science director for Washington Wildlife First science director

Colorado killed one to protect livestock. The others were poached, killed by other predators or hunted legally in neighboring Wyoming, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director Jeff Davis told the commission.

"You have the opportunity to help gray wolf recovery on a larger scale by helping us establish a sustainable population in the southern Rocky Mountains," Davis said.

Washington Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind told the commission that Washington could spare the wolves without threatening recovery here.

Nevertheless, the proposal didn't get any support. The only commissioner who voted against telling Colorado "no" was Barbara Baker. She said she wasn't enthusiastic about moving wolves, but that she wanted more information before making a decision.

Colorado released the wolves from Oregon in 2023. In late 2024, Colorado officials captured more wolves in British Columbia, flying them to Colorado in crates. Colorado will release the next batch of wolves farther from Wyoming, Davis said.

Commissioner Lorna Smith said she would like to see wolves elsewhere, but noted that Washington hasn't moved wolves intrastate to speed up recovery in Western Washington.

"Translocation is really, really hard on animals," she said.

Washington Wildlife First science director Francisco Santiago-Avila said Washington can't spare any wolves, especially for Colorado.

"They are not caring for wolves well, yet they have the audacity to ask for more," he said.



More pears, more problems: Industry explores program to tear out trees

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

In the wake of Del Monte Foods' facility closures in Washington and the company's bankruptcy, the U.S. pear industry faces oversupply and may tap into a government program that can compensate growers for orchard removals.

Mark Powers, Northwest Horticultural Council president, discussed the possibility during a joint meeting of Pear Bureau Northwest and the Fresh Pear Committee Nov. 12.

High retail pricing resulting in stagnant pear movement during a large harvest also was a concern for growers.

Experts have said a similar problem occurred with Pacific Northwest cherries this summer.

This year's pear crop came in at roughly 19 million 44-pound boxes.

That's far above the previous year's 10 million boxes, but more along the lines of what a normal harvest used to be, said CarrieAnn Arias, PBNW and Fresh Pear Committee president and CEO.

Payments for pear orchard removals

The Fresh Pear Committee voted without opposition to create a task force with the processed pear sector and explore a USDA specialty crop program that can reimburse growers for the cost of tearing out trees.

Powers said there needs to be industry realignment between supply and demand with Del Monte's closures and where previously processed pear tonnage will go in the future.

USDA bonus buys for fresh and processed pears have helped, he added.

Heading into the season, the industry had an extra 10,000 tons of fruit, leading farmers to train orchards for the fresh market and processors to cancel contracts,

See Pears, Page B9

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Southwest Idaho's Kuna FFA fares well at nationals

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press



Kuna FFA advisor Danielle Reynolds with the chapter's Nursery & Landscape national team Abigal Pawlak, Liberty Simper, Ruby Beverlin and Kimber Smith. (Courtesy Kuna FFA)

The success was nice and the experiences invaluable for Kuna FFA chapter members competing nationally.

Individuals and teams from the southwest Idaho chapter performed well at the National FFA Convention & Expo Oct. 29-Nov. 1 in Indianapolis.

Though everyone felt fairly confident going in, no one took a strong result for granted.

Other competitors' skills and experience are hard to gauge going into any career or leadership development event competition, "meaning you need to prepare well," said Danielle Reynolds, a Kuna High School agriculture teacher and FFA advisor.

"The students worked really hard this year, and it showed back in Indianapolis," Reynolds said. Students' performance at nationals "matched much of what they did here at home" at the state level.

At nationals, "it's definitely nerve-racking going in, not knowing how the other students are going to do," said Kylee Smith, a Kuna FFA junior. In contrast, state-level competition brings some familiarity with other teams as the season unfolds.

National competition provides plenty of opportunities to watch high-level competitors, and "see the level of dedication and drive the other teams have," said Kuna FFA chapter president Liberty Simper. "The culture here at Kuna is hard-working and motivated."

She saw a lot of individual growth among peers from her chapter as they matured, worked hard and built their skill sets.

Abigail Pawlak was the youngest member of Kuna's nursery and landscape team at nationals.

"I learned a lot in the competition … I learned a lot from people who have more experience," she said.

Murphy Clouss, who competed in agricultural technology and mechanical systems, said some team retraining was required at nationals — which meant students had to teach each other. That made the team's good performance particularly satisfying.

Setting the standard for good leadership and cooperation at the chapter level translates well in national competition, particularly in team events, Simper said.

Knowing the current FFA national competition is your last also can help, said Clouss, a senior.

"There's a little extra motivation," he said.



Pears:

continued from B7

said a canned pear expert, in a previous interview.

Powers said numerous details need to be fleshed out with the tree pull program, such as who would administer it, how long it would remain in effect, and eligibility requirements including geography limitations.

Criteria would be established to prevent replanting pear orchards on the same acreage.

The estimated timeline could be roughly 12-18 months, Powers said, which is slower than some growers respond to market conditions.

Complicating matters, the USDA also doesn't have staff remaining from the previous time the program was used 20 years ago for cling peaches, Powers said.

Adam McCarthy, a grower near Parkdale, Ore., said Del Monte assets may come up for sale in the coming weeks, and a buyer could restart processing plants. If that doesn't occur, processing capacity likely won't return, he added.



Pears hang from a branch at Oregon State University's Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center in this photo from July. The pear industry had a strong harvest this season, but is facing headwinds with high retail pricing and the loss of processing capacity. (Kyle Odegard, Capital Press)

The retail price remains the same

During the PBNW meeting, industry members worried retail pricing remains high regardless of crop size.

That disincentivizes supermarket chains from moving more fruit during a large harvest, said Doug Gibson of Mount Adams Fruit, based in Bingen, Wash.

"Pears are going to see significant losses that I don't see how we can avoid at this point with the size of the crop and the pricing in the market," added Don Gibson, Doug Gibson's father and the PBNW chairman.

McCarthy said he didn't know the right action to take, but guessed many farmers would lose $40 to $50 per bin.

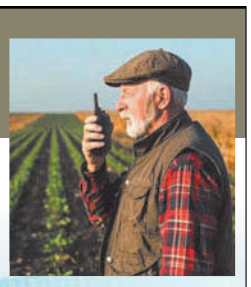
"I don't know how many growers are set up to lose that much money in the industry. … I don't want to send people running from a burning building, but I think that's what we're looking at," McCarthy added.

Arias cautioned that PBNW and the Fresh Pear Committee couldn't easily deal with pricing because of government restrictions with federal marketing orders.

However, industry members could address the issue themselves as independent businesses.

The joint meeting did have positive moments, with discussion of rebranding efforts, the success of national media campaigns and the growing digital sales and marketing category in the U.S. and Canada.



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Moderate recharge volume expected for Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press


Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer recharge volume won't exceed baseline levels unless southeast and south-central Idaho have a big winter.

Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer recharge volume won't exceed baseline levels unless southeast and south-central Idaho have a big winter.

The Idaho Water Resource Board and partners such as canal companies return surface water to the Lake Erie-sized aquifer between irrigation seasons. Aquifer levels dropped in recent decades due to drought, growth and development, and efficient irrigation systems that return less water.

A volume of 150,000 acre-feet of water is available for aquifer recharge in the fall and winter, minus volume that flows past Milner Dam for power production and other downstream uses — this season estimated at around 30,000, said Wesley Hipke, Water Projects Section manager with the Idaho Department of Water Resources.

Fall-winter recharge, which began Oct. 18, thus is expected to total about 120,000 acre-feet.

"Our best guess this year is 120, but we're always hopeful that we have a really good snowpack so we'll have more water to recharge this spring," Hipke said.

Flood control a long shot

IWRB can put additional water into the aquifer if the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation conducts flood-control releases in the spring.

"Reservoirs are so low that we are not expecting any" flood-control releases, Hipke said.

Low volume left in reservoirs following the 2025 irrigation season means snowpack of more than 115% of normal will be needed to refill the system, according to a board news release.

Recharge boost targeted

The board on Nov. 21 voted to increase its annual recharge volume goal from 250,000 acre-feet to 350,000, based on a 15-year rolling average, per the 2025 legislature's passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 110. The resolution reflected the goals of a 2024 settlement agreement between groundwater districts and a coalition of surface water users with senior rights.

The current annual average is 250,637 acre-feet over the past 10 years, Hipke said.

As part of the effort to reach the higher annual

See Recharge, Page B13

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Pacific Northwest could see more snow this winter

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho – A private industry weather expert is calling for wetter than average winter conditions and normal temperatures from November through January for Pacific Northwest farmers.

"We're looking at a wetter-than-average, snowier-than-average winter," said Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist at Nutrien Ag Solutions.

He delivered a winter outlook at the Washington Association of Wheat Growers annual convention Nov. 19 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

For January through March, the Northwest and northern-tier U.S. would be colder, with near to above-average precipitation.

Jetstreams out of the Northwest across the Pacific Ocean would load up the Cascades and Northern Rockies. Snodgrass said these are the best spots to watch for an indication of how the winter will go.



Eric Snodgrass, principal atmospheric scientist for Nutrien Ag Solutions, delivers an outlook for the winter ahead during the Washington Association of Wheat Growers annual convention Nov. 19 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)

Where will the cold air spill?

The Madden-Julien Oscillation originates in the Himalayas and Siberia, and moves over the Pacific Ocean. Its current phase tends to be mild in November, then unlocks arctic air.

It's not yet clear how far to the western side of the Rockies that cold air will spill, Snodgrass said. High pressure off of the California coast is a limiting factor.

"Cold air plus moisture equals big time snow," Snodgrass said. "History suggests that's the December pattern we're going to be getting into."

La Niña, the climate pattern characterized by the cooling of Pacific Ocean surface temperatures, is at its peak and will likely be gone by the end of December.

When La Niña peaks, it means mild, drier conditions to the Southwest and wetter, colder, snowier conditions in the Northwest.

If it goes quickly, "don't expect the front half of your winter to look anything like the back half of your winter," Snodgrass said. "The speed at which that changes will help dictate all of the other things."

A two-pronged jetstream could enter the western U.S. in the second half of December, he said.

"If that's the case, we tend to do just fine on winter precipitation — that tends to help out everybody, from California all the way to British Columbia," Snodgrass said. If the northern branch of the jetstream backs off, it could put the Sierra Nevada in the crosshairs of an active pattern, he added.

Snodgrass has yet to find a good historical analog year to compare to this winter.

"I've kind of been hung up lately on 2017 into 2018, and that was a terrible year for the West Coast in terms of winter precipitation — we relied heavily on March moisture in order to survive," he said. "So it's not a slam dunk this year."

See Weather, Page B13

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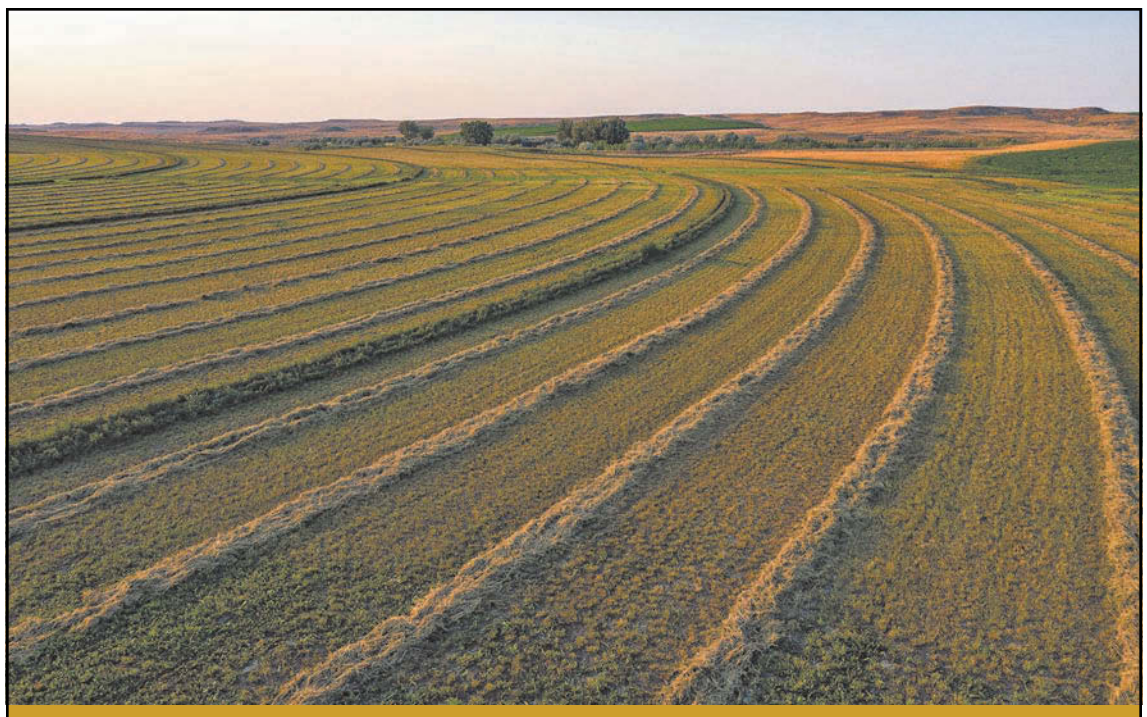
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UI hires director for Idaho Foundation Seed Program, Parma R&E Center

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

The University of Idaho hired entomologist Chris Caron as director of the Idaho Foundation Seed Program and the UI Parma Research and Extension Center.

Caron has worked as a research technician for the wheat breeding program at Nutrien Ag Solutions in Bozeman, Mont., since 2023 and has more than seven years of experience in agricultural research. He is slated to start his new role with UI Dec. 1, according to a UI news release.

Foundation seed is the initial seed generation produced under strict conditions to be used for growing certified seed. Farmers plant certified seed to raise crops with high genetic purity, high germination rates and minimal contamination. Foundation seed is raised from breeder seed, which is the first generation of a new crop variety that has been developed by a plant breeder.

Caron will manage statewide production of foundation seed for the program. The UI program maintains about 120 varieties of wheat, barley, oats, beans, potatoes, chickpeas, lentils, rapeseed, grasses, forbs and forage legumes.

The majority of seed production is done on UI-owned farms by Research and Extension staff, according to the university. All breeder and foundation class seed fields are inspected by the nonprofit Idaho Crop Improvement Association.

Caron also will be charged with ensuring rules and regulations are followed in the production of breeder and certified seed while maintaining seed production sites and the storage of seed lots throughout the state, according to the release. And he will oversee daily operations at the Parma research facility, which recently opened the Idaho Center for Plant and Soil Health laboratory.

"I'm excited to lead the foundation seed program toward continues growth and excellence, and I look forward to working with all of you in optimizing the Parma station's potential for research, outreach and extension," he said.

Idaho Crop Improvement Association executive vice president Kathy Stewart-Williams served on the search committee, "and I couldn't be happier with how it turned out," she

See Caron, Page B14

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Weather:

continued from B11

'Big blue H'

Snodgrass said his favorite type of weather to forecast is subtropical high pressure systems. "Clear skies, light winds, dominant patterns, they don't move," he said.

But they have the biggest impact. All of the so-called "fun weather" — tornadoes, hurricanes, hail, wind and lightning — runs at the periphery of such systems, marked as a "big blue H" on maps during Snodgrass's presentation.

"From now until April, if that big blue H is too close to your shore, I cannot tell you you're going to have a good snowfall," Snodgrass told farmers. "Your reservoirs are going to be empty, you're going to be mild, you're going to be dry, it's going to be a terrible winter. Oh, you'll enjoy it, it will be comfortable, but you won't get what you need."

A better scenario would be for the high pressure system to situate over the Aleutian Islands in the Pacific Ocean, Snodgrass said.

"We need to pace out December and then hope that the big high pressure cell that lives off the West Coast goes to the Aleutian Islands or Alaska and stays," he said. "In that case, there's no worry at all — we're going to have plenty of moisture, snowpack will be great, rivers will be flowing, reservoirs will be full."

But "there's too much of a risk," he continued. "It's just not a solid situation in terms of getting that high pressure center to move away."

Summer precipitation

"I don't like summers where the high comes back," Snodgrass said.

If the high pressure moves over British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and Idaho, "we are in trouble," Snodgrass said.

The jet stream curls back and windspeeds come around from out of the east, leading to summer fires, he said.

"We tend to get those incredibly hot stretches that are very dry," Snodgrass said. "You have limited summer thunderstorms, which is bad for that wheat production (area), we want those summer thunderstorms to come along."

Northwest summer precipitation trends are down over the last 45 years, while temperatures are going up two to three degrees on average, mostly overnight heat, Snodgrass said. The same trend is not present in the winter.

"That's what's increasing our evaporation rates in early summer," he said. "That's why we see more of our winter snowpack coming through the river systems faster and earlier, which makes water issues in the Northwest very, very challenging ... As a consequence, your fire risk goes way up."

Recharge:

continued from B10

recharge goal of 350,000 acre-feet, "the board is actively working on recharge infrastructure" to take greater advantage of wet years, he said. "Our focus mainly is in the upper valley."

Milner move

Snake River water above Milner Dam is fully allocated to right holders.

Water downstream comes from springs, tributaries and post-irrigation return flows. IWRB Nov. 21 approved an agreement with Idaho Power, which operates a cooperative cloud-seeding program with the board, involving seasonal flows past Milner.

The agreement was crafted to enable the aquifer to continue to benefit from recharge in low water years, and for power production and other downstream uses to benefit in average and high water years.

How much available volume the board diverts for aquifer recharge, and for how long, are depen-

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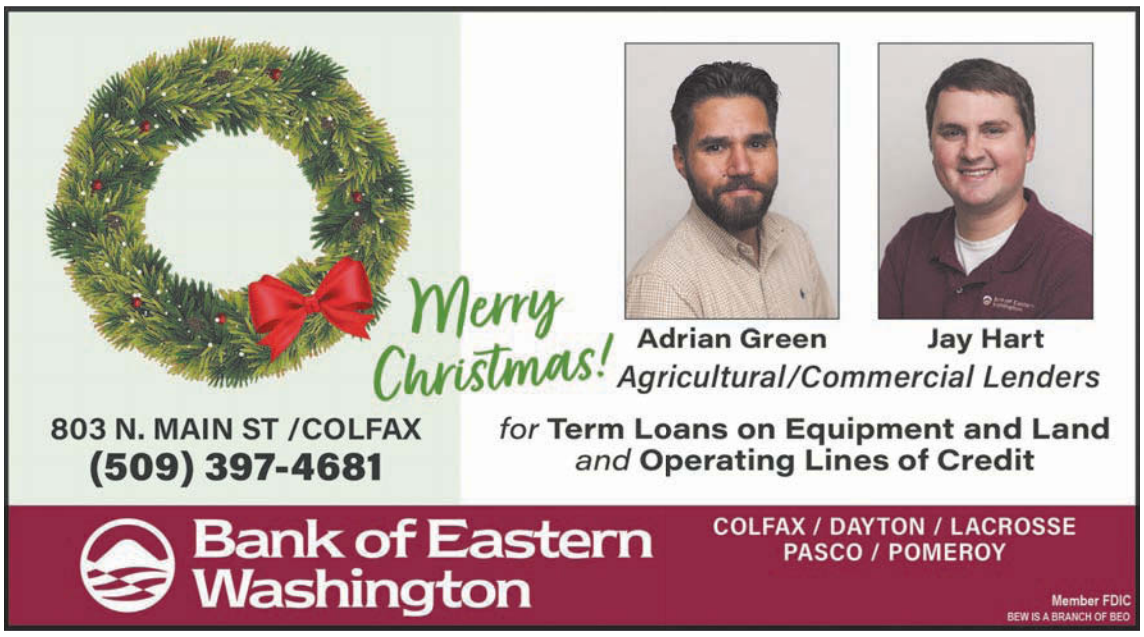






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Chris Caron started Dec. 1 as the new director of the Idaho Foundation Seed Program and the University of Idaho's Parma Research and Extension Center.
(Courtesy Chris Caron)

Caron:

continued from B12

told Capital Press. Caron "will be a great fit for that position."

"I applaud the university for the effort they put into structuring the position and the location to be attractive for a pool of qualified candidates," Stewart-Williams said. "Out of that pool, Chris just rose to the top."

Caron's academic and work background prepare him well for the foundation seed program from a production scale standpoint, and "he's so enthusiastic about the possibilities," Stewart-Williams said.

Caron's background

Caron earned a degree in biology from Franklin Pierce University in Rindge, N.H., in 2013. From 2017 through 2023, he managed the applied entomology research lab at Montana State University, and earned a master's degree in land resources and environmental science from MSU in 2019. His thesis focused on integrated pest management of wheat stem sawfly in spring wheat.

He was involved with multi-state insecticide trials for managing alfalfa weevils, according to the release. And he planted, maintained and harvested wheat seed-treatment trials for management of wireworms in spring wheat.

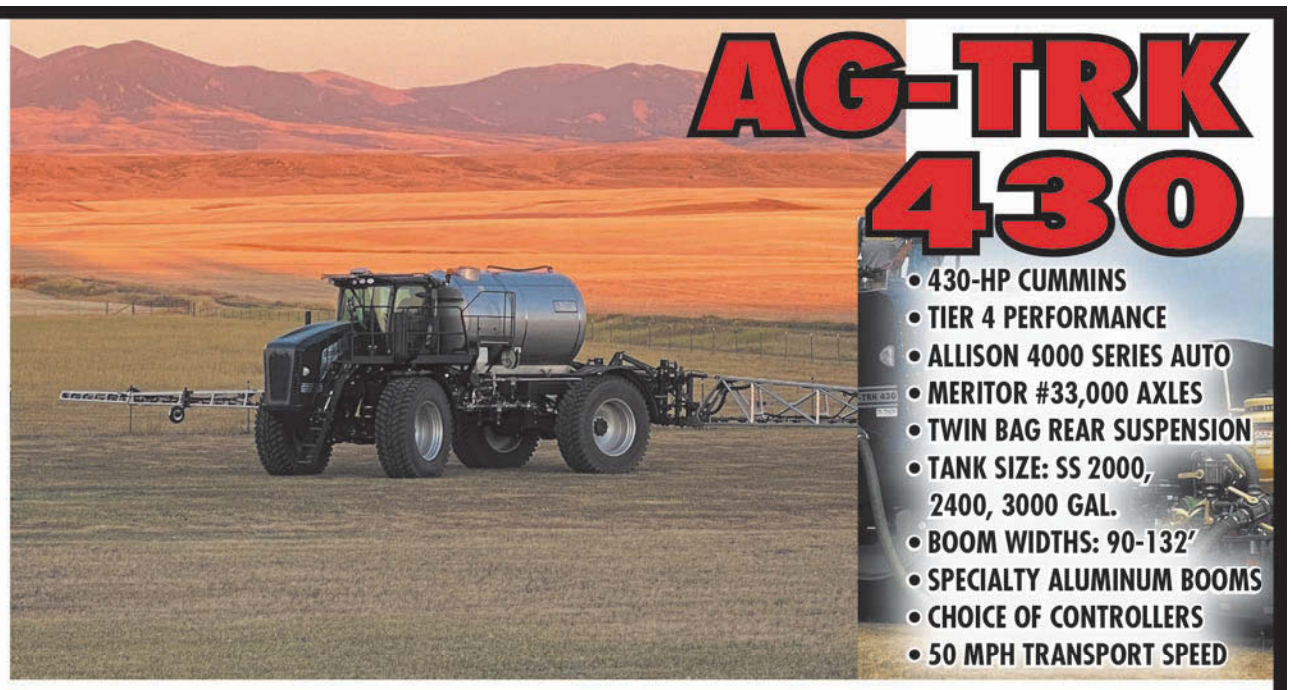
"I've been fortunate to work with Montana's farmers through applied research, both at MSU and Nutrien," Caron said. "These experiences have deepened my appreciation for the seed industry and strengthened my commitment to supporting agricultural innovation."

At Nutrien, his knowledge of entomology "has enhanced our understanding of of the insects affecting wheat production in Montana — Hessian fly, wheat stem sawfly and the orange wheat blossom midge, insects that can also create problems in Idaho," Nutrien senior breeder Dale Clark said in the release.



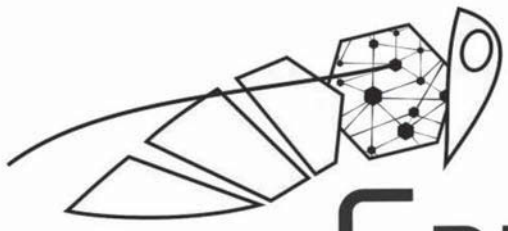
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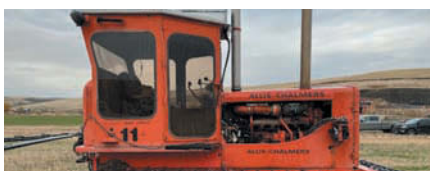


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Idaho economist helps wheat farmers cut costs, manage risk

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

MOSCOW, Idaho – One day Xiaoli Etienne studies how policy changes affect wheat prices, and the next she tells farmers how tariffs affect fertilizer prices. And their bottom line.

That's her favorite part of the job, as University of Idaho's Idaho Wheat Commission Bill Flory Endowed Chair in Commodity Risk Management.

"My main goal is to help farmers feel more confident in making decisions," Etienne said. "Prices will always fluctuate, that's the nature of the agriculture markets. But over the last couple of years, we've seen much higher volatility than many producers are used to. So it's important for them to understand what's driving the price volatilities."

Most wheat farmers are running at a loss this year, Etienne said.

She recommends cutting every possible cost. For example, she encourages soil testing, to be sure farmers don't over-apply their fertilizer. Growers should also be aware of farm safety net programs.

Volatility can be good or bad, Etienne said. It presents opportunities for farmers to strategize for their operations.

In a recent statewide survey of more than 500 farmers, Etienne examined how they use different marketing tools, such as cash sales or hedging or futures contracts.

Preliminary analysis showed that most farmers know the tools are good, but aren't willing to use them because they're "too complicated."

Etienne offers workshops to help farmers better understand how to sell their wheat based on data, instead of instinct or guesswork, she said.

"I want them to feel informed and in control," Etienne said. "A producer has no control over price, but they can control how they respond to market risk."

Low price outlook

High stocks on the global market keep wheat prices low, Etienne said. Without a significant weather event, the low price will continue, at least through the next marketing year.

She points to crop insurance and other farm programs as tools to help farmers weather the low-price environment.

Many farmers she speaks to liken today's prices to the 1980s.

"Producers are very resilient," she said. "They can always react to the changes and survive in the long run."

Sell a little bit each month

When Etienne arrived at UI in 2021, growers asked her which marketing strategies had best performed in

See Economist, Page C4



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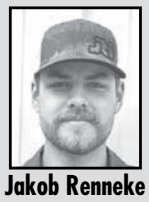

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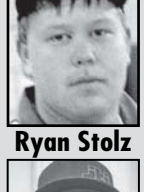

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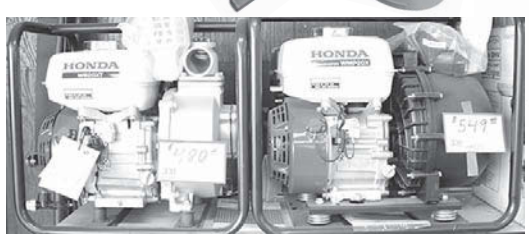


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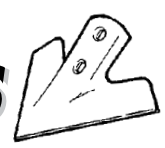
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CASE IH AGRICULTURE
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Xiaoli Etienne stands beneath the grain price market tracker in the lobby of University of Idaho's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences the morning of Oct. 27 on the Moscow, Idaho, campus. As endowed chair in commodity risk management, Etienne helps current and future farmers better understand marketing tools and how to tackle volatility. (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)

Economist:

continued from C3

Idaho in recent years.

"We took that question seriously," Etienne said. With a graduate student, she studied data from various sources.

The "very commonsense" answer: Farmers must sell a part of their expected output every month between January and July, through futures or marketing contract, and then a small portion at harvest.

The strategy consistently performed better than selling everything at harvest, she said.

"We actually did particularly well when the market is volatile," she said. "The reason is very simple: By spreading out the sales over time, you're not putting all your eggs in one basket. This way, you try to minimize your risk of hitting one single low-price window."

Prices are typically lowest during harvest, Etienne noted.

Exceeding expectations

When Idaho wheat producers invested in the endowed chair, there was hope that the position would benefit both current and future growers, said Britany Hurst Marchant, executive director of the Idaho Wheat Commission.

"Dr. Etienne has exceeded our expectations at every turn," Hurst Marchant said.

As a professor shared between UI's College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and College of Business and Economics, Etienne teaches students who will bring their risk management skills, knowledge and experience back to the farm, Hurst Marchant notes. As endowed chair, she leads grower workshops and discussions to offer farmers a "practical and personalized approach to risk management that can be implemented right now."

"Risk management is a critical component to industry viability and farm profitability, especially when prices are down and many variables are creating volatility," Hurst Marchant said.

After attending Etienne's presentation, Soda Springs, Idaho farmer Craig Corbett uses the tools every day on his own farm.

"I think we market a lot better because of it," he said.

Corbett directs his friends to Etienne's workshops.

"Farmers want to learn, but yet they don't want to learn – it's just a very hard subject to teach," Corbett said. "They're asking me questions about the marketing, and I just say, 'Hey, here's a workshop that's going to explain all that to you. You need to go.'"

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Some growers want changes to North America trade deal

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The U.S. is reviewing its trade agreement with Mexico and Canada prompting some farm groups to ask for protectionist measures.

Many U.S. agricultural interests praise the agreement for eliminating tariffs and promoting cross-border trade. Some growers, however, say low-priced crops, especially from Mexico, are driving down prices.

For example, in comments submitted recently to U.S. trade officials, Oregon and Idaho onion growers proposed duties on Mexican onions.

"Let's set the record straight — rules and regulations in America have caused an uneven playing field with Mexico, thus allowing their growers to undercut our farmers," Idaho Onion Growers' Association executive director Patxi Larrocea-Phillips wrote.

The USMCA, successor to the North American Free Trade Agreement, went into effect in 2020. The pact calls for a review and possibly changes in 2026.

As part of that review, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative received thousands of comments on the deal's upsides and downsides.

The deal got high marks from the American Farm Bureau. "U.S. farmers and ranchers have benefited from an increase in annual exports to Mexico and Canada," the Farm Bureau stated.

Mexico and Canada are the top foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products.

The U.S. exported $30.2 billion worth of agricultural products to Mexico and $29.5 billion worth to Canada in 2024. Washington alone exported $1.1 billion worth of farm goods to Canada.

Even more farm goods came into the U.S. Mexico exported $48.7 billion in agricultural products to the U.S., while Canada exported $41 billion.

The U.S. dairy industry remains frustrated by Canada's quotas on dairy products. Canada favors its own producers, shutting out U.S. products, according to U.S. industry groups.

The U.S. beef industry is split on the agreement. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association calls it a model for trade deals and vital for ranchers. R-CALF says it fosters dependency on foreign beef and recommends quotas and tariffs on Mexican and Canadian beef and live cattle.

See Recharge, Page B6



President Trump, then-Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau (left), and then-Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto (right) sign the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement during a ceremony in Buenos Aires, on the margins of the G-20 Leaders' Summit on Nov. 30, 2018. The agreement is now up for review, prompting some farm groups to seek changes. (Courtesy U.S. State Department)







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WSU economist: Low wheat prices to persist through May

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho – Despite some up-side opportunities, lower wheat prices will persist through the 2025-2026 marketing year, Washington State University's small grains economist says.

Based on current market conditions, a December 2026 futures price approaching $6.50 per bushel to $6.60 per bushel could be an opportunity to start new crop sales, Randy Fortenbery, WSU's Thomas B. Mick Endowed Chair in Small Grain Economics, said.

"If there is a shock to the market, it will probably be to the upside," Fortenbery said. If the market reaches higher prices, "they may not be there for very long."

Fortenbery spoke Nov. 19 during the Washington Association of Wheat Growers annual convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The current futures market carry suggests forward pricing stored wheat could be "attractive," Fortenbery said. Hedge to arrive contracts may be the best strategy, he said.

See Wheat, Page C7

Trade:

continued from B5

The Northwest Horticultural Council said the agreement has been an "extreme benefit" for growers, packers and shippers of apples, pears and cherries in Washington, Oregon and Idaho.

The Washington Red Raspberry Commissioner, however, complained Mexico floods the market precisely when its growers are bringing their berries to market.

Washington raspberries are offered at $2.70 to $2.80 a pound, while Mexican berries are on sale for $1.50, according to the commission.

The commission said it strongly supports tariffs on Mexican raspberries.

Likewise, the California Avocado Commission asked for tariffs on Mexican imports.

California avocados sold in March for $1.78 a pound. By August, Mexican imports drove the price down to $1.08, according to the California Avocado Commission.

Mexican avocado imports are roughly seven times the volume of U.S. production, according to the commission President Ken Melban.

"Unfettered avocado market volumes have increasingly led to race-to-the-bottom pricing in the U.S. market," he wrote.

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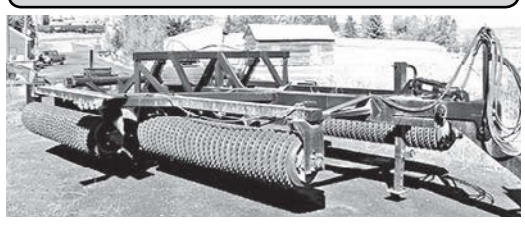
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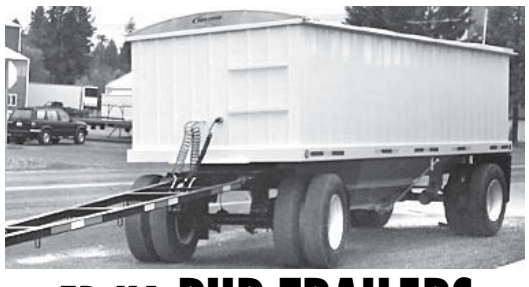
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Wheat:

continued from C6

Price levels and basis — Portland cash price minus the futures price — suggest storing un-priced wheat is not as risky this year compared to recent years, but improved prices are not guaranteed, Fortenbery said.

USDA projects an average price of $5 per bushel nationwide for the marketing year.

Export pace

For the next few months, what matters most is the export pace, Fortenbery said.

USDA projects 900 million bushels will be exported for the current marketing year, which ends May 30.

At least 45% of the crop must have access to the international market. This year, 44% of the crop is expected to be exported.

"On the export side, things look really good," Fortenbery said. "The problem is, the reason exports look really good is, prices are low."

It's important that wheat exports continue to move to keep prices from further deteriorating, he said.

If weekly shipments are lagging about halfway through the marketing year to hit USDA projections, the market begins to soften.

The market needs to average exports of about 17 million bushels per week to hit the 900 million bushel figure.

10-year low

"Big carryouts, low prices," Fortenbery said.

Wheat acres and harvested acres have declined in the last two years.

"But we had awesome yields, that's how we got the big crop," he said, pointing to a 55 bushel per acre national average. This year, it could decline to 51 bushels per acre.

He predicts a 10-year low in national wheat acreage, with hard red winter and spring wheat farmers turning instead to corn and soybeans. Acres could be up in Washington and Idaho, he added.

That's price-positive for the 2026 crop, but doesn't necessarily mean positive price expectations from now through next May, Fortenbery said.

All major exporters are up about 18%, Fortenbery said. Any unexpected demand entering the market won't have the same impact as if supplies were tight. All exporters are in position to respond aggressively to any new export market incentives.

"Trade is expected to be up this year, so that's positive," Fortenbery said. "But we're still not going to consume enough domestically across the entire globe to bring the entire stock picture down within the next year."

Buying fuel

A grower asked Fortenbery when he should be buying fuel. Fortenbery doesn't recommend "getting too aggressive."

"Upside may be more limited than downside," he said of fuel prices. "I wouldn't be buying thousands of gallons and filling tanks at this point, because I think you might see a little bit better price later."



Randy Fortenbery, Washington State University small grains economist, predicts a 10-year low in national wheat acreage, which is price positive for the 2026 crop, but doesn't necessarily mean positive prices through May. (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)



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Regulatory costs a burden for Oregon tree fruit growers

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

Four Oregon tree fruit farmers spent between $250 to $700 per acre each year to comply with federal, state and local regulations, according to a new study.

The project, conducted by Oregon State University and California Polytechnic State University researchers in 2024, included pear and cherry growers in the Mid-Columbia Gorge.

Economies of scale at large farms

The study found small growers paid more per acre than large farms due to economies of scale.

Large farms employ fewer workers per acre, spreading out costs.

They also can have an easier time keeping workers for the full year instead of hiring temporary pruning staff and harvest season help, reducing training expenses.



A Washington farmworker loads apples into a bin. The United Farm Workers is suing the U.S. Department of Labor over rules for setting wages for seasonal foreign farmworkers. (Capital Press file photo)

Bigger ag operations possess specialized and efficient employees dedicated to administrative duties.

Small farm owners might lead training and fill out paperwork themselves while not taking an hourly wage.

Pear growers face higher expenses

Pears had far greater expenses than cherries due to higher costs for safety training, labor health and safety and H-2A guest worker compliance.

Cherry producers in Oregon usually have enough domestic migratory workers to pick fruit.

The large cherry grower

See Costs, Page C9

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'23 CASE IH 9250 HILLCO, 736 hrs, Harvest Comnd, 4wd, Chopper, Duals, Lux Cab,#1074..... $550,000
'16 CASE IH 8240, 2303 Sep hrs, Chopper, 620x42 Duals, 2WD, Lux Cab..... $195,000
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Costs:

continued from C8

in the study had roughly $251 in cash and non-cash expenses per acre related to regulatory compliance.

The small cherry grower had $276 in expenses per acre.

For the large pear grower, that figure was nearly $533 per acre.

The small pear farm in the project had total regulatory compliance expenses of almost $697 per acre.

Housing infrastructure a major cost

Regulatory compliance expenses also include food safety records, pesticide use and reporting, excessive heat requirements, air and water quality, workers' compensation, unemployment insurance and capital investments.

Capital investments primarily involve employee housing, which can be extremely expensive but vary depending on existing infrastructure.

In some cases, complying with heat rules resulted in the installation or maintenance of air conditioning equipment in employee housing.

New Oregon farmworker housing regulations will phase in starting Jan. 1 and could be costly for some farms.

"People are very concerned about this," said Ashley Thompson, OSU tree fruit expert. The biggest worry was the slightly increased square footage needed per employee, she added.

"We will likely be able to house fewer employees unless we are able to build new housing, which, given the current economic situation, seems unlikely to me," Thompson said.

Rarely included in enterprise budgets

Regulatory compliance expenses have increased significantly for some crops and likely will keep rising.

However, they're rarely included in enterprise budgets estimating the profitability of crop and livestock production, said Tim Delbridge, OSU ag economist.

"The result is that neither the policy makers … nor farmers are sure if they are making efficient decisions," Delbridge wrote, in a recent post on the OSU Applied Economics Outreach Blog.

According to OSU enterprise budgets, typical sweet cherry revenue was $10,200 per acre in 2022, while Bartlett pear revenue was $11,250 per acre in 2021.

Regulatory compliance costs represented between 2.5% and 2.7% of revenue for cherries and between 4.7% and 6.6% of revenue for pears.

Advice for growers and ranchers

The study authors urged producers to consider time and money spent on regulations and ways to increase efficiency, such as improved recordkeeping processes and lowering the number of employees onboarded every year.

Farmers also should evaluate whether using the H-2A program is worth the cost.

Producers need to be careful of "overcompliance" and doing unnecessary tasks.

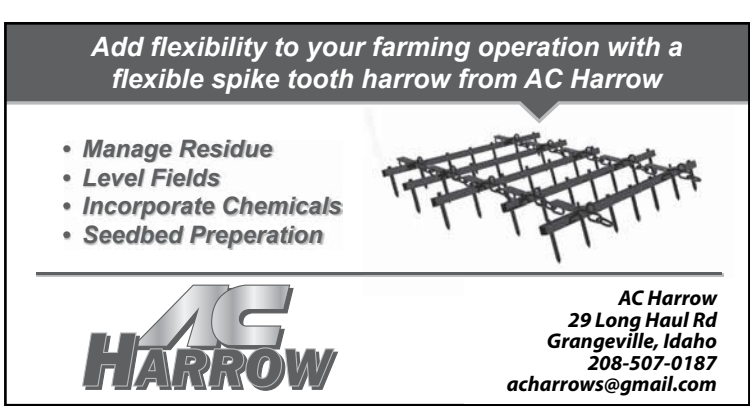
"Regulations are complicated and often difficult to interpret. Talking to other growers about how they satisfy regulations and sharing strategies for efficiently complying with regulations could lead to cost savings on some operations," the authors wrote.

Participating in compliance training also may be worthwhile, they added.











Beekeepers call for testing, certification to fight honey adulteration

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Beekeeping groups across the U.S. and Canada are calling for stricter testing and certification to discourage the sale of adulterated or fraudulent honey.

A new strategy devised by beekeeping organizations recommends creating "standards of identity" for honey to recognize such traits as floral source and geography, similarly to wine appellations.

Such a system would help reverse the trend of honey becoming a "low cost commodity," deterring misbranding while allowing different varieties to compete on more than price, according to the new "North American Bee Strategy."

"What we're really trying to do is make sure that the American and Canadian consumer is getting real honey when they think they're eating it, whether that's buying it at a grocery store or eating it in cereal," said Matt Mulica, the facilitator who helped beekeeping groups develop the strategy.

The strategy was produced by the American Beekeeping Federation, the American Honey Producers Association, the Canadian Beekeepers Federation, and the Canadian Honey Council to encourage a coordinated approach for beekeeping issues across North America.



A new strategy devised by beekeeping organizations recommends creating "standards of identity" for honey to recognize such traits as floral source and geography, similarly to wine appellations. (Courtesy Oregon Department of Agriculture)

Bees important to ag

Beekeeping is an important part of the North American agricultural economy, as honey bees are transported around the country to pollinate valuable specialty crops such as blueberries and almonds, but the industry has been contending for decades with increased pathogens and other problems.

"It's really unprecedented — the first time that these groups have come together to do anything like this, to come up with a group of shared principles," Mulica said.

The strategy points to the success of Manuka honey, made from the nectar of the Manuka tree in New Zealand, which is credited with containing unique compounds that result in healthful and antimicrobial effects.

Guard against fakes

By forming an independent council to oversee the testing and certification of honey, North American beekeepers could also guard against the importation of adulterated or fake honey — a problem the strategy characterizes as "out of control worldwide."

Currently, honey is often diluted with syrup, processed to remove unwanted residues or offensive aromas and misbranded to represent the product as coming from certain floral sources or particular regions, according to the strategy.

The USDA's system of grading honey has come under criticism for insufficiently enforcing standards, allowing misbranding and adulteration to occur on a greater scale than in the European Union, which is considered to have stricter enforcement mechanisms.

"Right now, if you see grade A honey, it doesn't mean anything — it actually doesn't connect to any kind of regulation," said Mulica.

See Honey, Page C11

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CattleFax analyst tells Oregon ranchers the beef cycle has turned

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

PENDLETON, Ore. — The beef cycle probably peaked this fall with a record price of $245 per hundredweight for fed cattle, but the market should drop only slightly in 2026 as supply slowly rebuilds, said a CattleFax analyst.

"We're now starting to turn the corner," said Patrick Linnell.

He added the herd rebuilding likely will be a gradual process due to several factors, and producers should expect $212 to $215 per cwt for fed cattle in 2026.

"We can still remain elevated at historic levels as we move forward for the next couple of years," Linnell said.

"Even as prices soften, the outlook remains very positive for cattle producers," he said.

Linnell, who is originally from nearby Hermiston, Ore., spoke during the 2025 convention for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregon Cattlewomen on Dec. 4.

Low herd inventory, but record beef supply

Linnell stressed the national herd is at a record low, but prices at auction and stores are high because of record demand, not a

See Beef, Page C12

Honey:

continued from C10

Misbranding and adulteration handicaps legitimate North American beekeepers in the market, as they must often compete against lower-priced imports that are not the genuine article, he said.

"It's just an unfair competitive advantage if you're producing something that is not real, and selling it for half the price," Mulica said.

Stronger enforcement

Apart from the voluntary testing and certification regime, the North American Bee Strategy recommends stronger customs enforcement at U.S. borders to ensure shipments of misbranded and adulterated honey are actually destroyed, rather than just sent back to the exporter.

Unless the offending product is actually destroyed, unscrupulous exporters can simply relabel the containers and try again with "little punitive effect," according to the strategy.

"We can only produce about 60% of our domestic demand for honey, and so we have to import some, but it's really important that that imports don't fool the consumer and that it's real honey," Mulica said. "If it's stopped at the border, it just gets sent back to them, repackaged, and they try to bring it through a different border. And so, there's really no reason for people to try to change anything."

Aside from addressing such marketing concerns, the North American Bee Strategy also includes recommendations to improve bee health and prevent the importation of diseases and pests that threaten the domestic industry.

For example, the strategy says that bee exports should be prohibited from countries known to harbor Tropilaelaps, which is a type of rapidly-spreading mite that's currently found in China, Thailand, Vietnam and India.

Customs and inspection agencies should also be on high alert for potential feral bee hives on other exports from Asia countries, which may be infected with the mites, according to the strategy.

Due to the migratory nature of beekeeping in North America, among other factors, the pathogen would be "very difficult to manage, if not impossible," Mulica said. "If it gets here, it'll be devastating. It'll eventually spread all over the place."

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Beef:

continued from C11

beef shortage.

The U.S. remains at near record beef production thanks to advancements with feed and genetics.

The domestic beef industry added the equivalent of 1 million cattle in 2024 and 800,000 in 2025 by making cows bigger. Steer carcass weights are now nearly 1,000 pounds on average.

"These cattle are getting huge," Linnell said.

He expected beef cow inventories to rise 100,000 head in 2026.

The last time the beef cattle cycle turned, about a decade ago, the U.S. added 1 million cattle each in back-to-back years.

This go-round, CattleFax predicts the U.S. will add 1 million cattle total over a three year period.

Next year is anticipated to be the low point for slaughter and production in this beef cycle.

As inventory increases, the industry should have enough slaughter capacity, Linnell said.

Dairy contributions to the beef industry aren't going away but will plateau after rising for years, he said.

"Now, 20% of dairy revenue comes from cattle sales," he added.

With the impact of beef-on-dairy calves and cull cows, dairy farmers consider themselves beef producers.



Patrick Linnell, an analyst with CattleFax, spoke at the 2025 convention for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association and Oregon Cattlewomen on Dec. 4 in Pendleton, Ore. Linnell said that the beef cycle has turned, the outlook remains positive for ranchers. (Kyle Odegard, Capital Press)

Policy impacts beef prices

Linnell said the beef cattle industry has been very influenced by government policy decisions that added to the upside, as well as pulled the market back down when policies were reversed.

Policy that directly influences markets can be unpredictable and treacherous, he said.

Prices were pushed higher by supply restrictions as the new world screwworm resulted in the closure of the southern border — the U.S. imports about 1.2 million live cattle from Mexico every year.

That combined with prohibitively high tariffs on beef from Brazil to add roughly $30 per cwt to fed cattle prices.

President Donald Trump's administration recently lowered tariffs on Brazilian beef and Linnell believes the Mexican border will reopen to live cattle in the first half of 2026..

After an audience member asked if Trump caused record beef prices — there were a few barbed comments during the presentation regarding the President, tariffs and his statements.

Linnell said Trump contributed, but market conditions that existed beforehand had already taken prices to record levels.

Broader economic woes, such as a recession, could threaten consumer demand for beef, which has been driven by premium cuts.

The U.S. all fresh beef retail price was believed to be about $9.40 in November, and Linnell said that's approaching a mark where consumers will start resisting further price increases.

He expected consumer demand to remain flat next year.

"But that's flatter at record levels," Linnell added.





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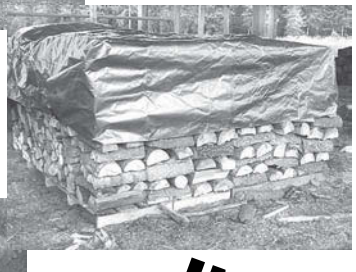
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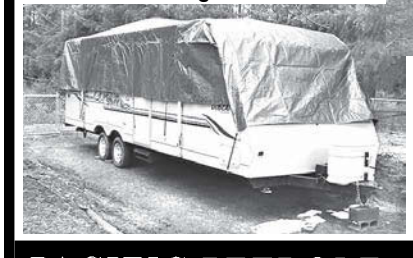
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Farmer-led nonprofit dam education group builds audience

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Momentum for the Center for Sustainability and Working Rivers, the farmer-led nonprofit organization advocating on behalf of the lower Snake River dams, is building, group leaders say.

President Leslie Druffel and social media content creator Adam Ratliff, the "Armchair Engineer" on social media, provided an update to Washington Grain Commission board members Nov. 20 in Spokane.

So far in 2025, the group produced 174 unique videos to social media platforms TikTok, YouTube, Facebook and Instagram, up from 90 videos in 2024. Ratliff expects to double last year's number by the end of 2025, since the non-profit produces at least three videos per week.

The videos have 15.5 million views so far, Ratliff said.

"That is significant," he said. "This is not a subject matter that typically draws a lot of traffic."

Upcoming video topics include the lawsuit proposing emergency changes to dam operations that would include more spill and lower reservoir levels; an investigation into the December 2023 federal settlement and a YouTube documentary about the river system, including a four-day ride-along on the marine highway.

The group does not lobby Congress or work on litigation. Its primary focus is public education, Ratliff said.

"I can honestly say that I would be talking about the dams regardless of who was helping support it — that's my passion," he said.

The audience

Ratliff estimates that the audience the group reaches is about 60% pro-dam and 40% anti-dam.

"We're not accomplishing anything if we just preach to the choir," he said. "If we just make ag videos for ag people, that doesn't work."

Ratliff gauges response by public comments made on the videos. That's where activists try to make their point.

"I love this, I encourage it and I engage with them," he said. "Sometimes, it's a fight we have to mute. Other times, it's a productive conversation. There's some very lively discussions happening in the comments."

The group's content has stayed out of a "right versus left, red versus blue rabbit hole," he said.

"Ultimately, food security and clean energy is a centrist issue, and we want to lead the charge with that."

Some folks are dug in and just want to make their point. Others come with legitimate questions.

"We see peoples' minds get changed as they watch the content, as they see perspectives they haven't heard before, certainly from the mainstream media," Ratliff said. "Little by little, we are moving the needle of public perception about our dams."

Most responses are based in the Pacific Northwest.

Is he changing anyone's mind?

"Only time will tell," Ratliff said. "They have a 20-year head start on us. For 20 years, they've been saying to school kids in Washington that 'We used to have all these fish, we built dams and then the fish went away.' That is a lie, and it's going to take time to undo that myth."

The commission in November 2024 funded the group $75,000 per year for two years. The group continues to raise funds, Ratliff said.

The group will produce videos about the Colorado River and Hoover and Glen Canyon dams.

"Hoover Dam content gets views," Ratliff said. "It's not actually relevant to this issue, but if I'm trying to build an audience of people who are interested in and see the value of infrastructure, then one can lead into the other.

"We're thinking strategically," he continued. "If you see us do a video about a dam that has nothing to do with the Pacific Northwest, that's the strategy — we're trying to cast a wider net."

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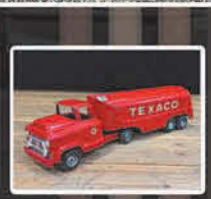




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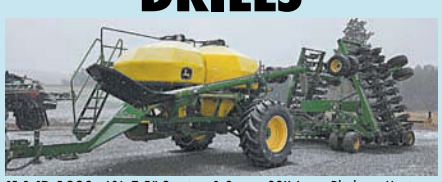


'18 GREAT PLAINS 7336DH DISK, 36', Gauge Wheels, 800 Total Acres $57,500

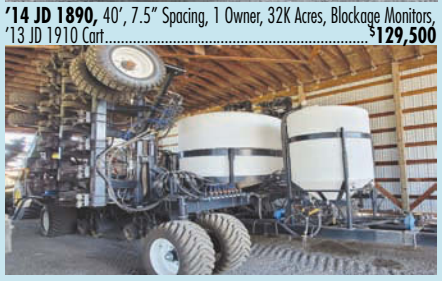


(50) KILE K311 CHISEL PLOW FERTILIZER POINTS .... $75 EA.

DRILLS



'14 JD 1890, 40', 7.5" Spacing, 1 Owner, 32K Acres, Blockage Monitors, '13 JD 1910 Cart $129,500



'23 AGPRO CROSS SLOT DRILL, 36' 10" Spacing, 1500 & 500 Gal Tanks, 135 Bu Airbox, Scales $299,950



'10 JD 1890, 36', 10" Spacing, AgPro 1100-D Airbox, Omnitrac Or Manual Drive, 3 Sets Of Seed Rolls, Blockage Monitors, Extra Set Of New Forge de Niaux Blades $89,950

TRACTORS



'66 JD 2020, 5426 Hrs, JD 145 Loader, 60" Bucket, Plumbed to Front, 1 Rear Remote, 7' Blade $6,950



2) UNUSED CAMSO 36" STANDARD AG TRACKS FOR CIH QUADTRAC ..... $5,950 EA.



'12 JD 7230R, 4112 Hrs, MFWD w/ TLS, IVT, JD H480 Loader w/ Bucket/Grapple/Hay Handler, (4) Remotes, Active Seat, LH Reverser $137,000

HAY EQUIPMENT



'95 MACDON 9000 WINDROWER, 3593 Hrs, '00 MacDon 15' Grass Seed Special Head $14,500



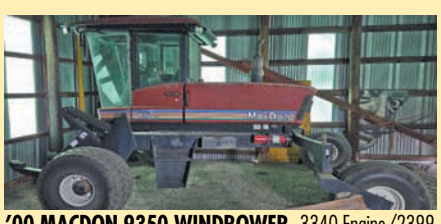
'11 JD R450 WINDROWER, 1216 Engine/836 Head Hrs, 16' JD 995 Rotary Head $74,950



'07 NH BB960AS BALER, 29621 Bales, Cutter, Roller Chute, Auto Lube $25,000



NH 215 TWIN BASKET RAKE $5,500



'00 MACDON 9350 WINDROWER, 3340 Engine/2399 Header Hrs, '00 MacDon 972 Triple Delivery Head, 21', Cart $31,000

COMBINES



'10 CIH 8120 , Hillco, 6411E/4130S Hrs, 4WD, 40' MacDon FD75 Flex Draper Available $140,000



'04 CIH AFX8010, 3906E/2729S Hrs, 4WD, Chopper, '11 CIH 3020-35' Flex Header & Cart $35,000



'11 CIH 2162 FLEX DRAPER HEAD, 40', Top Auger, Transport Kit, $20K In Work Order In Past Year $27,950



'21 REDEKOP MAV CHOPPER & SEED CONTROL UNIT, Came Off CIH 40 Series Combine $35,000



'19 MACDON FD135 FLEX DRAPER, 35', CIH Adapter, Top Auger $69,950



'84 IH 810-13' PICKUP HEAD $1,000

AG TRACKS



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