



The Growers' Guide

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Volume 44 48 Pages PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308 Phone: (509) 397-2191 Number 2



Eddie Alvarez holds up a pallet of peanut plants in his greenhouse May 13 in Mabton, Wash. Alvarez Organic Farms has raised peanuts for sale at farmers markets for 30 years, among hundreds of varieties of other organic crops. (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)

The biggest peanut farmer in Washington

By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

MABTON, Wash. — Eddie Alvarez’s family has a long history of raising peanuts in Washington State. Alvarez Organic Farms, based in Mabton, Wash., has raised peanuts for 30 years — a practice started by his father and grandfather, Alvarez said. Do many farmers raise peanuts in Washington? “There’s a couple more,” Alvarez said. “Not as much as I do. (I’m) the

biggest one, yeah.” Alvarez plants “Super Jumbo” variety peanuts from his own seed in a greenhouse in February, then transplants them out into the field later in the season. It takes about three weeks to plant them. “They do pretty good, they don’t yield as much as they do down south,” Alvarez said. “It’s just not hot enough. We need a little bit longer season of

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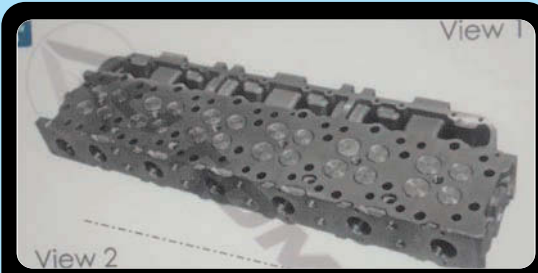


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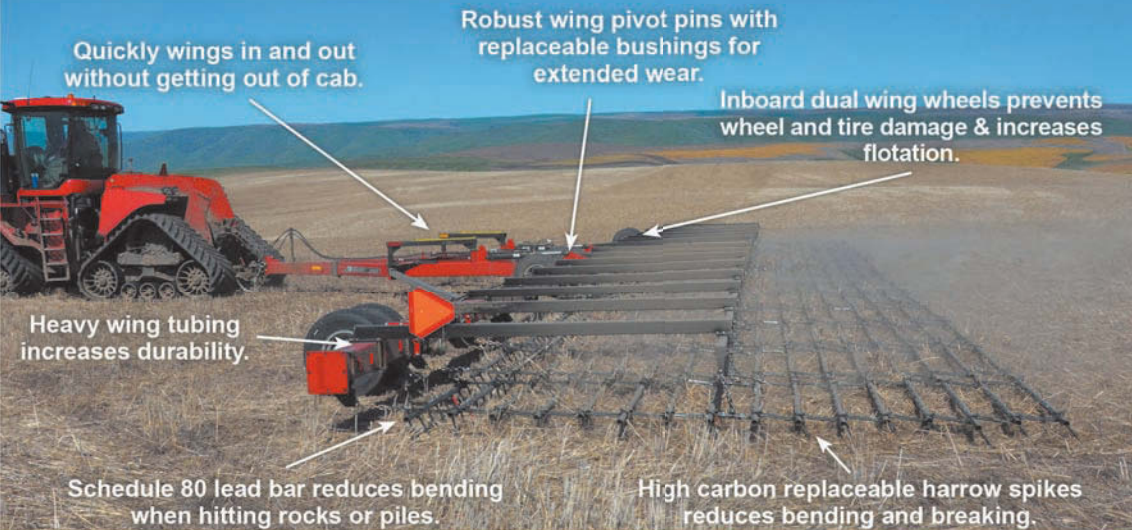
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'23 MF 8740S, 795 Hrs, CVT, AutoSteer, (24) Front & (8) Rear Weights, (6) Hyd Remotes, PTO..... \$268,000
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WILRICH 3400 FIELD CULTIVATOR, 45', Dyko Points, 5 Bar McFarlane Harrow..... \$8,550
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(2) WILRICH 2900 8 BOTTOM PLOWS, Spring Reset .. \$6,500 EA.
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DRILLS

'14 GREAT PLAINS 3S-5000HD DRILL, 50', 6" Spacing, 15K Acres, Track Scratcher, 1 Owner \$79,950
'21 CIH 500 DISK DRILL, 50' 7.5" Spacing, Single Shoot, All Run Intelligent Ag Blockage, CIH 2280 2 Compartment Cart, Duals... \$135,000
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JD 455, 30', 7.5" Spacing, 4" Packers \$12,500
(4) JD HZ DRILLS, 32', Transport Hitch \$1500
FLEXICOIL 8100, 30', 2340 Cart, Extra Parts..... \$18,000
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(44) MARK IV CROSS SLOT OPENERS, Low Acres. \$110,000
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EZE-ON 7550 DRILL, 30', 7.5" Spacing, 4280 Aircart, Duals, 750 Gal NH3 Tank..... \$16,950
(6) JD 9300 DRILLS, 48', Hitch, 12" Spacing \$3,950
JD 455 DRILL, 35', 7.5" Spacing, New Wing Tires, Spare Parts, Combo Boxes..... \$29,950
GREAT PLAINS 354010HD DRILL, 40', 7.5" Spacing, 1 Season On Blades..... \$95,000
'11 CIH 800 PRECISION HOE DRILL, 50', 3430 Cart, Blockage Monitors on all Runs w/ Seed Count & Fert Count \$75,000

HAY EQUIPMENT



'13 MF WR9770, 1814 Hrs, 16' TwinMax Rotary Head, Complete Rebuild On Cutter Bar for '26 \$79,950
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'21 MF RK842 SD-TRC PRO ROTARY RAKE, Low Acres \$33,000
'08 MF 2170 BALER, 81272 Bales, Autolube, Poly In Bale Chamber \$29,500
H & S TURNER FLUFFER \$3,500
SHOP BUILT ROUND BALE HANDLER..... \$2,500

MISCELLANEOUS

'17 JD 310L EP BACKHOE LOADER, 1702 Hrs, 4WD, Cab, Air/Heat \$45,500
FRONTIER GC1107 GRAIN CART, 700 Bu, PTO, Roll Tarp \$21,950
FAB-MECH TAILGATE SEED AUGER, 8", Wireless Remote \$4,950
(4) GOODYEAR 520/85R46 TIRES \$1,200 EA.
(1) BKT 380/90R46 TIRE..... \$500
SPEED KING 240 BU SEED TENDER, Honda Power, Belt In Tube, Roll Tarp \$6,950
CIH REMAN OIL DRIVE WOBBLE BOX FOR 1010 HEAD..... \$1,200
CIH REMAN 4WD MOTOR FOR 2388 \$4,500
SUNFIRE RADIANT HEATERS, 80/120/160 BTU.. IN STOCK

NEW TITAN 480/80R46 TIRE \$1,250
(2) USED FIRESTONE 20.8 X 38 TIRES... \$1,000 EA.
(4) ALLIANCE 650/65R38..... \$4,950
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1200 BU HOPPER BIN..... \$1.50/BU
(4) MICHELIN 380/90R46 TIRES & WHEELS..... \$1,500 EA.
(2) FIRESTONE 28L-26 DIAMOND TIRES..... \$500 EA.
DOYLE BELTAVATOR, Stainless Steel, Honda Engine, Hydraulic Travel Motor..... \$18,950
MATHEWS 60' X 8" AUGER, Electric Drive \$1000
WESTFIELD SEED AUGER, Tailgate Mount..... \$500
WESTFIELD WR80-41 AUGER \$3,500

VEHICLES

'01 WESTERN STAR 4964FX, Shows 339640 Mi, Series 60 @ 500 HP, 18 Speed, Twin Lockers, Lift Axle, Airshift PTO, Wet Kit Available \$21,000
'74 MACK RL700L Mack 6 Cylinder, 10 Spd, 20' Alloy Aluminum Hopper Bed, Roll Tarp \$10,950
'96 IH 8100, 364K Mi, Cummins M11 w/ Fresh Overhaul, 10 Spd, 22' Grain Body w/ Electric Roll Tarp, Lift Axle..... \$49,950
'97 VOLVO WG64T, 410K Mi, Recon Cummins M-11, 10 Spd, 20' Steel Bed w/ Harsh Hoist, Removable Grain Box, Rear Pintle, All Aluminum Wheels..... \$39,950
'73 CHEVROLET C20, 64221 Mi, 350 V8, AT, A/C, 8' Bed ... \$6,500
'87 KW T800 GLIDER, Reyco 4 Spring, P/S..... \$2,000
'94 MACK CH600, E7 400 HP, 18 Spd..... \$1,950
CHEVROLET C65 TANDEM, 427, 5X3 Trans, Air Brakes..... \$1,000
MACK RL700L, 400 Cummins, 13 Spd, A/C, Air Ride Cab \$5,000

COMBINES & HEADERS



'10 CIH 8120, 3269 Sep Hrs, 4WD, Chopper, Hillco Leveler..... \$125,000
'15 MACDON FD75, 40', Transport Kit, Parts Head Or Rebuild .. \$7,500 OBO
'12 JD 5680, 2848 Sep Hrs, RAHCO Leveler, Hillco Transition, Chopper, Fully Overhauled For Harvest, JD 635 Available For Additional Cost \$125,000
'04 JD 9760STS, 3625 Sep Hrs, Full Leveler, 4WD, Chopper, '07 JD 630R, Cart, '06 JD 630F, Cart..... \$49,950
'99 JD 9610, 5272 Sep Hrs, Full Leveler, 200 Hrs On New Hydro, Chaff Spreader, '99 JD 930R, Cart..... \$19,950
'92 JD 914 PICKUP HEAD, 7 Belt, Hillco Conversion.. \$4,950
(2) CIH 2020 FLEX HEADS, 35', Cart \$3,500 EA.
'11 CASE IH 8120 LEVEL LAND 4016 Sep Hrs., Luxury Cab.. PARTING OUT, 1/2 OF NEW
'11 CIH 3020-35' FLEX HEAD, Cart..... \$11,000
(100) LOVE LIFTERS..... \$25 EA.
'80 IH 1470, '94 CIH 1010-25' Head..... \$4,000
'91 CIH 1020-25' FLEX HEAD..... \$2,500'
REDKOP MAV CHOPPER & SEED CONTROL UNIT, Came Off CIH 40 Series Combine \$29,950
'04 CIH 2388, 4938E/3940S Hrs, Hillco Leveler, '04 CIH 1020-30 Flex Head..... \$42,500
'08 CIH 2020-30' FLEXHEAD, Cart..... \$1,000

TRAILERS



'77 LOAD KING 50 TON LOWBOY, 3 Axle, Hydraulic Folding Gooseneck..... \$14,950
MARQUEZ 29' LEAD TANDEM HOPPER, Roll Tarp, Star 20' Pup, Adjustable Tongue, Roll Tarp \$19,950
'79 SHOPBUILT EQUIPMENT TRAILER, 18', 3 Axle.. \$2,500
COLT HOPPER PUP TRAILER, 21', Late Brakes, Airgate, 21' Tongue..... \$9,950
'23 BIG TEX 60EC 14' TANDEM AXLE CAR HAULER \$2,995

Peanuts:

continued from A1

hotter weather, and it would be better.”

He harvests in mid- to late September, depending on the season. Everything is harvested by hand. Alvarez hires about 35 workers during the harvest season, and points to increasing labor and fuel costs.

Does he do anything differently in Washington, compared to peanut farmers in the south?

“I’ve never been down south, so I don’t know about how the growing season does or how they do over there,” he said.

Alvarez sells the peanuts fresh, fried and roasted at Seattle farmers markets and at the farm in Mabton, from September to November.

Customers respond with excitement. Demand gets bigger every year, he said.

They eat the peanuts roasted, or boiled with saltwater as “goober nuts.” Others eat them raw and dry.

Some customers make their peanuts into peanut butter.

Alvarez himself doesn’t process the peanuts into peanut butter, noting he would need a certified kitchen for that.

Family farm

Alvarez farms on 80 acres. He raises peanuts on about 5 acres, yielding about 3.5 tons per acre.

He raises peppers, eggplants, okra, tomatoes, tomatillos, cucumbers, potatoes and other crops — all organic.

“You name it, it goes on,” he said.

Eddie Alvarez has been farming about 35 years. The farm has been going for more



It's rare to find a peanut farmer in Washington State. "There's a couple more," said Eddie Alvarez of Alvarez Organic Farms in Mabton, Wash. "Not as much as I do. (I'm) the biggest one, yeah." (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)

than 45 years, started by father Hilario, who continues to farm at 76 years old.

The farm became one of the few certified organic producers in Washington in 1992, according to its website. Today, they’re one of the largest organic producers in the state.

“In those days, going organic wasn’t considered the wisest move — many consumers were not well-informed or still very skeptical about organics,” the website states. “After certification came (a) slight increase in prices; soon Hilario’s customers began disappearing. In an effort to find a market for his under-appreciated

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TRACTORS



VERSATILE 1150, power shift, 5,900 hrs., diff. locks front & rear, KTA-1150, 525-hp., triples, 4 remotes\$67,500
PTO, 3-point hitch, 4-remotes, new crank, rods & main bearings, Papé Machinery rework on engine, 8-heavy cast wheels, rack & pinion axles\$18,500
VERSATILE 850, tractor 280 hp 855 Cummins diesel\$16,500

CASE 4890, 4-remotes, 4594-original hrs, 30.5LRx32 radials inside, 24.5x32 outside\$17,500
diesel, 85-hp, PTO, 3-point, cab and loader **MAKE OFFER**

TRUCKS & TRAILERS

MILLER 20-TON TILT DECK TRAILER, air brakes..\$12,500
OSHKOSH M747 60-TON TRAILER, 11' wide deck, 4-axle, 16-wheels, ramp.....\$29,700
FEED/SEED TANK, mounted on semi-trailer, 5-compartment, retractable unloading leg.....\$2,500

TILLAGE

HESSTON 54FT WIDE CULTIVATOR, 5-section, walking beam axles, sweeps, hard faced\$8,800
JD KILLIFER 15' OFFSET DISK.....\$2,800
MORRIS, 19' chisel plow, 2-section **PARTS**

WANTED

3 TRACTORS 80 TO 125 HP with power front drive & possibly loaders for same.
LEWCO HAY GRAPPLES with swivel or equivalent

ALFALFA SEED, BAGGED, CLEANED, \$240⁰⁰/BAG

HAY & FEED

REARS FLAIL MOWER, 22 ft width, transport hitch, 1000 PTO.\$18,800
JD 1710 mulch subsoiler 16 ft width.....\$3,300
JD DEEP TILL 7 SHANK SUBSOILER COMBO 3 POINT AND TAG AXLE STYLE.....\$5,500
JD DRILL/SEEDER, 3 point hitch, with packer wheels, 8 foot width.....\$1,250
NH 1048, self-propelled bale wagon, auto trans, dieselCALL
NH 1046, self-propelled bale wagon, 6-cyl. gas.....\$3,500
NH 595, 3x4 baler, Excellent!\$17,700
55 GALLON PROPIONIC HAY PRESERVATIVE ACID, pure.....\$1,950
BALE WAGON PARTS, auto & stick transmissions, rear ends, 460-V8, auto. transmissionCALL
HESSTON 4655, in-line style baler\$18,500
JD, 12-wheel V-rake\$4,750
HESSTON, StackMover trailer\$1,100
HAY GRAPPLE, 3-big bales, 4-round bales, or many small bales, Cat telehandler mounts (can be changed) with 2 hydraulic cylinders\$3,500/ea.
CASE IH, hay dry preserver applicator, ea\$250
NH 515 BALER, w/ Deutz diesel engine, 3-twine. \$12,500
VERMEER 605K, Roundbaler.....\$6,500.00

ENGINES

CAT 3126, 190-hp**PARTS**
AC 3500, diesel\$3,850
JD 404, turboed diesel\$3,500
JD 303, gas engine head, complete\$600
JD 466 TURBO DIESEL\$3,950

PARTS & EQUIP.

NEW WATER WELL DRILL BITS, carbon buttons . 1/2 OF NEW
HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS, PUMPS & MOTORS, CALL
• **JD 8630**, tractor • **JD 8640**, tractor..... **PARTING OUT**
• **JD 880 & 2270 WINDROWERS**.....**PARTING ATTACHMENTS**
LEON, 10' front mount blade\$2,500

DRILLS

3-JD 9350, 8"x7" hoe drills, factory movers, packer wheels, grass seed/fertilizer\$6,500

COMBINES & PARTS

'76 **JD 6602**, with 20' header\$2,500



JD 7722 HILLSIDE COMBINECALL!

SPRAYERS

SHOP DESIGNED/BUILT SPRAYER 80 feet and 90 feet booms. Widths can be reduced. Tag styles with tanks. \$3,500 each
JOHN DEERE TAG AXLE LIQUID NURSE TANK long slender design for safe road use.\$1,950.00

MISCELLANEOUS

JD 250 LIQUID NURSE TANK, tag axle style with liquid pump.\$1,500
WANTED, PTO T-Box, 1 3/4"x21-spline, 1000-RPM.....CALL!
BARBER 1307, turf rake, hydraulic dump\$2,500
BARBER, 45' granular spreader, center load\$2,000
BARBER, 45' granular spreader, center load. Good!.. \$4,750

ACE, orchard heater/blower, LP gas, 3-point, 540-PTO, 4-tanks, Massive Space Heater!\$800

KUBOTA 350-SP, lawn mower, diesel, hydro, 5-reel..\$3,300

IRRIGATION T TAPE, 5,000 ft. rolls, 3/4" with 24" spacing, metered water outlets.....\$85/per roll

TARP TIE DOWNS, new, choice of rope with Ny-Locks..CALL

4-NEW MICHELIN TIRES, radials, 265/70R19.5\$850

COOK, 6' offset disk, 24" blades.....\$950

PARTING OUT, several 2-ton trucks and bale wagons..CALL

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Peanuts:

continued from A4

produce, he began traveling to the Seattle area to participate in local farmers markets. Fortunately, his focus on variety made him unique and popular in the Seattle farmers market scene.”

Peanuts make up about 10% of the overall operation, Eddie Alvarez said. The biggest crop is peppers.

He has seven in-bed greenhouses and several hoop house greenhouses.

Alvarez’s father first started the peanuts.

“He just likes growing every-

thing,” Eddie Alvarez said. “Whatever grows, he’ll plant it. I don’t know, that was one of his ideas. It actually worked well.”

Alvarez intends to keep it going.

He’d like to look into grants or find funding for a harvesting machine. It takes about an hour to fill a five-gallon bucket, he said.

Alvarez’s advice to other potential peanut farmers is short and simple.

“Just try it out and see how it goes,” he said.

Peanuts in Washington

It’s not certain how many farmers are growing peanuts in Washington, since they’re not grown on a



Eddie Alvarez shows off a peanut plant in the soil May 13 in a greenhouse May 13 in Mabton, Wash. Alvarez and his crew first plant the peanuts in the greenhouse, then transfer them out into the field later in the season. (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)

widespread commercial scale, said Ivy Fox, local food infrastructure

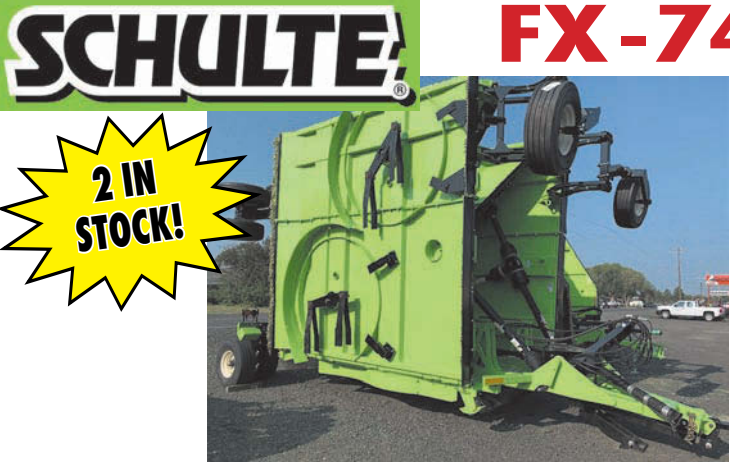
specialist for the state Department of Agriculture.

Peanuts require warm temperatures and specific soil conditions to grow. For some farmers, there are higher-yielding crops that can be grown within the same area, Fox said.

Harvesting and processing peanuts requires specialized equipment, “so farming peanuts at scale would require significant upfront cost for farmers,” she said.

Accessing new and existing marketplaces for peanuts also requires additional time and investment that can cause barriers and challenges

See Peanuts, Page A6



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Peanuts:

continued from A5

for production, especially within a shifting global marketplace, she said.

“Organic peanuts are even more rare to find,” Fox said.

Accessible organic produce

“In a highly agricultural area, the Alvarez family focused on diversification and sustainability,” Fox said.

The farm grows hundreds

of varieties of peppers, and hundreds more of other varieties of fruits and vegetables, she said.

“Eddie stands out as a farmer because he is deeply committed to the community, bringing fresh, high-quality and culturally relevant food directly to Washington markets and families,” Fox said. “Keeping his organic produce accessible to everyone is key to his growing philosophies, and he donates hundreds of pounds of produce



Eddie Alvarez’s crew transfers peanut plants from the greenhouse to the field June 3. The whole process takes about three weeks, Alvarez says. They raise peanuts on about 5 acres of the 80-acre organic farm and harvest in September, selling in farmers markets and at the farm site through November. (Eddie Alvarez/Contributed)

every week to nearby food banks and other food access programs.”

Outlook

Alvarez hopes for hotter weather this year.

“Last year was pretty good; the year before, not as good,” he said. “We’re hoping for a better crop this year.”

Alvarez considers his biggest challenge to be getting enough water for irrigation. The farm’s water supply comes from the Yakima River, provided by Sunnyside Valley Irrigation, according to the website. In 2014 the farm installed a “state-of the art” drip irrigation system.

“It’s looking so far, so good,” Alvarez said of this year.

Even after three decades, Alvarez still finds the wonder in watching the peanuts



Peanut plants in one of Alvarez Organic Farms’ greenhouses May 13 in Mabton, Wash. (Matthew Weaver/Capital Press)

grow. A lot of people think they grow on trees, but they grow underground, like potatoes, he notes.

“Just seeing a thing that people don’t think they grow around here,” he said.

PEANUTS AT A GLANCE

- Peanuts are the seeds of an annual legume.
 - World production of peanuts was approximately 47 million metric tons in 2020. China is the world’s largest producer.
 - The U.S. is the fourth largest producer, and exports 25% to 30% of production. In 2020, about 56% of peanuts grown were made into peanut butter.
 - Peanuts are primarily grown in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. Major and minor production areas represent roughly 99% of total national production.
 - In 2025, U.S. farmers planted 1.95 million acres of peanuts and harvested 1.91 million acres.
 - U.S. peanuts fall into four basic types: Runners, which are about 85% of production; Virginias, about 10%; Spanish, about 2% and Valencia, which are less than 1%.
- (Source: American Peanut Council)

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Kitchen Corner: Best burger recipes

By Dana

See Kitchen, Page A9

Summer is for grilling. Here are some burger recipes from the Cattlemen's Beef Board and National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Slinger smashburgers

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (80% lean or leaner)
- 6 potato sandwich buns, toasted
- 3 medium Yukon Gold potatoes (about 3/4 cup), shredded, drained well
- 1/2 cup thinly sliced onion

Salt and pepper, to taste
1 cup shredded Italian cheese blend

2 cups Beef Coney Sauce, warmed
6 eggs, fried

Cooking:

Heat griddle flat top or large cast-iron skillet over medium heat until hot. Combine Ground Beef, potato and onion in small bowl. Divide evenly into 6 portions. Lightly shape into loose balls. Season with salt and pepper, as desired.

Evenly place half of balls on griddle; cook 1 to 2 minutes or until bottoms are browned and crispy.

Turn balls, smashing into thin patties with a spatula or burger press. Cook 1 to 2 minutes or until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F. Remove from griddle; keep warm. Repeat with remaining beef.

Cook's Tip:

Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of

160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.

Top each patty with 2 tablespoons cheese.

Evenly place patty on each bun; top with 1/3 cup coney sauce, fried egg and top halves of buns.

Classic beef cheeseburgers

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1-1/2 teaspoons steak seasoning blend
- 4 hamburger buns, split
- 4 slices cheese (such as Cheddar, American, Swiss, etc.)

4 lettuce leaves
4 tomato slices

Toppings:

Ketchup, mustard, onion slices, pickle slices (optional)

Cooking:

Combine Ground Beef and steak seasoning in large bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Lightly shape into four 1/2-inch thick patties.

Place patties on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over medium heat on preheated gas grill, 7 to 9 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally. About 2 minutes before burgers are done, place buns, cut sides down, on grid.

Grill until lightly toasted. During last minute of grilling, top each burger with cheese slice.

Cook's Tip:

To prepare on stovetop, heat large nonstick skillet over medium heat until hot. Place patties in skillet; cook 12 to 15 minutes until

instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally.

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AND WAIT. ~ Will Rogers

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\$146,500



2017 TERRAGATOR TG8400B, diesel engine, CVT transmission, Air Max Precision 2 dry air flow system, 70' stainless steel boom, micro ingredient bins, electric roll tarp, Raven Viper 4, Smarttrax Auto-steer. 3,387 hours
\$138,000



'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.
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\$96,500



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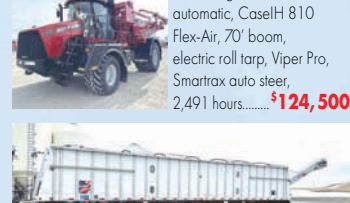
2019 TERRAGATOR TG8400C, Cummins diesel, 3446 Hours. Diesel Engine, CVT transmission, 70' stainless steel booms. Micro bin with yellow and white rollers. Electric roll tarp
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2015 Case IH Titan 4530, diesel engine, Allison automatic, Case IH 810 Flex-Air, 70' boom, electric roll tarp, Viper Pro, Smarttrax auto steer, 2,491 hours
\$124,500



2013 Merritt Heritage Grain Trailer, 39 foot trailer, air ride suspension, electric roll tarp, back and front Rapat conveyor tender system.
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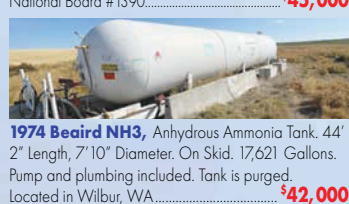
1969 LUBBOCK NH3 TRANSPORT TRAILER, 10,400 gallon, Blackmer pump, tank volume gauge, WK 265 PSI, MC331, OAL 463, OD 84.4, Shell Thk. 401, Head Thk. 250, tandem axle, spring suspension, National Board # 1390.....
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Kitchen:

continued from A7

Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.

Line bottom of each bun with lettuce; top with tomato, burger and toppings, as desired. Close sandwiches.

Grilled onion cheeseburgers

Ingredients:

- 1 pound Ground Beef (93% lean or leaner)
- 1 tablespoon chopped fresh thyme
- 1-1/2 teaspoons minced garlic
- 1 large onion, cut into 1/2 inch thick slices
- 1 tablespoon vegetable oil
- 4 white or whole wheat hamburger buns or Kaiser rolls, split
- 3 ounces shredded or crumbled cheese (such as smoked mozzarella, goat cheese, feta, blue cheese)

Cooking:

Combine Ground Beef, thyme and garlic in medium bowl, mixing lightly but thoroughly. Lightly shape into four 1/2-inch thick patties. Brush both sides of onion slices with oil.

Place onions on grid over medium, ash-covered coals. Grill 15 to 20 minutes or until tender, turning occasionally and brushing with oil. (Grilling times for onions remain the same on gas grill.) Grill patties in center of grid, covered, 8 to 10 minutes (over



Classic cheeseburgers

medium-heat on preheated gas grill 7 to 9 minutes) until instant-read thermometer inserted horizontally into center registers 160°F, turning occasionally.

Season burgers with salt and pepper, as desired.

Cook's Tip: Cooking times are for fresh or thoroughly thawed ground beef. Ground beef should be cooked to an



Grilled onion cheeseburgers

internal temperature of 160°F. Color is not a reliable indicator of ground beef doneness.

Place 1 burger on bottom of each bun; top evenly with cheese and grilled onions.

Close sandwiches.

Cook's Tip: Any type of sliced cheese may also be used to top burgers, including Cheddar, Swiss, provolone and Gouda.

*JUNE, JULY, AUGUST 2026



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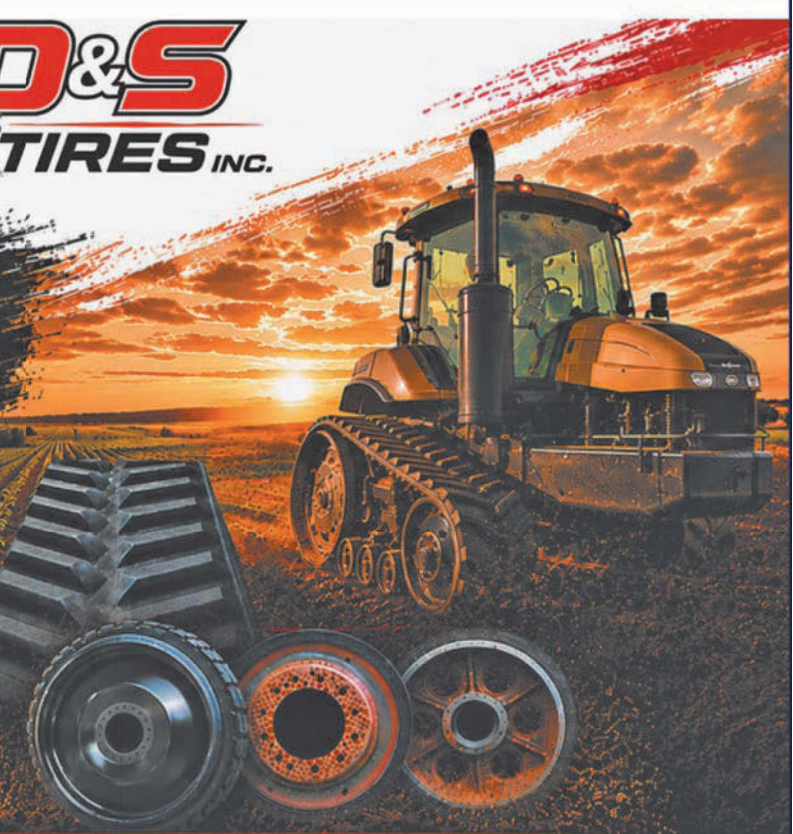
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Court rules against Farm Bureau on cap-and-trade

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

The Washington Supreme Court has ruled the Department of Ecology correctly applied a law that purportedly exempts farmers from cap-and-trade taxes.

The court rejected claims by the Washington Farm Bureau that Ecology regulations fell short. Although some farmers obtain tax-exempt fuel from distributors, other farmers must pay the tax at retail gas stations, the bureau complained.

In a 9-0 decision issued June 25, the court said Ecology can't control fuel prices. "Absent this authority, Ecology does not have the power to require fuel suppliers to stop imposing surcharges," Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis said.

The ruling denies farmers relief intended by state lawmakers, according to the Farm Bureau. "The Washington Supreme Court's deci-



The Washington Supreme Court upheld June 25 the Department of Ecology's execution of the Climate Commitment Act. The Washington Farm Bureau claimed the execution was flawed because some farmers are hit with cap-and-trade taxes. (Wikipedia/Contributed)

sion leaves Washington's farms and ranches continuing to shoulder rising fuel costs under already severe financial pressure," Farm Bureau President Rosella Mosby said in a statement.

Ecology worked with fuel suppliers to make sure they knew how to exempt farmers from surcharges, department spokesman Andrew Wineke said in an email.

"We're pleased that the Washington Supreme Court has recognized our efforts to implement the law and

deliver these exemptions," he said.

The Washington Legislature passed the Climate Commitment Act in 2021 to tax carbon emissions from fossil fuels. Oil companies pay the tax, but the tax gets passed on to motorists.

Lawmakers carved out a tax exemption for emissions from fuel burned on farms or to transport farm goods. The Farm Bureau alleged Ecology failed to find way to give farmers rebates or discounts at all stations.

The court ruled lawmakers didn't actually give the tax break to farmers. Oil companies get the tax break, but only if they choose to take it, according to the court.

"Although WFB takes issue with the imposition of surcharges on those in the agricultural sector, nothing in the CCA precludes fuel suppliers from doing so," Montoya-Lewis wrote.

'Impossible to track'

The petroleum industry has said it's impossible to track every gallon eventually used by a farmer, likening it to naming the customer of every apple.

Oil and natural gas suppliers bid for carbon allowances. Based on the latest auction results, cap-and-trade is likely adding 52 cents per gallon to gasoline and 64 cents per gallon to diesel.

Ecology has compiled a directory of 93 stations around the state that sell surcharge-free fuel to qualified

farmers. Ecology advises farmers to call the stations to learn more about the documentation they need to show.

The Farm Bureau and Ecology argued the case in October. The decision was delayed by more than a month as justices debated whether the opinion should credit Montoya-Lewis' law clerk, Bailey Warrior Phang, with assisting on the ruling.

A majority opposed crediting a law clerk in a ruling. Three justices, including Montoya-Lewis, signed a concurring opinion by Justice Steven Gonzales crediting and naming Phang.

In another concurring opinion, Justice Barbara Madsen said Gonzales revealed confidential information about the court's internal deliberations and that the majority agreed crediting a law clerk may create confuse and invite questions not answered in the court's ruling.

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China makes first U.S. soybean buy of season

By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

In a "flash sale," China recently made its first purchase of U.S. soybeans for the new marketing year.

Private exporters reported sales of 136,000 metric tons of soybeans for delivery to unknown destinations during the 2026/2027 marketing year, according to USDA.

“China has been the big question mark, so it’s good to see them making purchases,” said Scott Gerlt, chief economist for the American Soybean Association. “It’s a good start, but there’s a long ways to go to get to where we need to be with China.”

China has been “slow-buying” for the upcoming crop, Gerlt said. China committed to purchase 25 million metric tons of soybeans this year.

"We're assuming that's going to happen," Gerlt said. "There's been a lot of volatility in the relationship. I can't say with certainty that it will, but that's really what we are expecting."

If China hits the 25 million mark, that's consistent with trends in recent years, save for last year's trade disruptions, he said. Soybeans are the No. 1 U.S. farm export, and China the biggest customer.

A flash sale's effect can vary, Gerlt said.

“A flash sale is a purchase commitment ... they do get canceled all the time,” he said. “We don’t know when the beans for this flash sale are actually supposed to be delivered, so there’s a lot we don’t

know.”

Under the sale, the beans could be delivered anytime between September to August 2027, he said.

Value buyer

U.S. prices are good relative to competition in Brazil, somewhat unusual for this time of year.

“China is typically a value buyer, so whenever the U.S. harvests in the fall, our beans are usually cheaper than South America, because we have a lot of supply we have to move,” Gerlt said. “The opposite is true whenever Brazil starts harvesting in the spring.”

China tends to purchase wherever they can buy soybeans the cheapest.

“Right now, Brazil would usually be cheaper than the U.S. because we’re just low on beans this point of the year, we’re near the end of the marketing year, we’re clearing things out for the upcoming harvest,” Gerlt said.

Currency issues in Brazil have made their soybeans cost more than U.S. soybeans, he said.

“We’re just a lot more competitive on the world stage right now than we would normally be this time of year,” he said.

Much of the demand for U.S. soybeans has been on the domestic market, Gerlt noted.



China has committed to buying 136,000 metric tons of soybeans in its first purchase in the U.S. of the marketing year. (Illinois Soybean Association/Contributed)

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It's the Pitts: On his high horse

By Lee Pitts

As our country celebrates 250 years of freedom and independence from England I am so glad we don't have to bow down to a Monarchy, sing God Save the King or suffer the self-righteous behavior of pompous Britishers.

Although I've never been to the United Kingdom I did study in Australia for a year thanks to a Rotary Graduate Fellowship. When I got the fellowship I could pick anywhere I wanted to go in the world and my choice came down to the University of New England in Armidale, New South Wales, Australia, and the University of Edinburgh in Scotland, which for over 500 years has been one to the top higher education institutions in the world.

Initially I was leaning towards Edinburgh because I wanted to go where most of the English breeds of livestock originated. I was also a huge fan of the veterinar-



Lee Pitts

ian turned author James Herriot and I wanted to visit the Dales and walk where he walked. But it would have meant living in a big city which I never could abide. So my wife and I moved to Australia where we met lots of fullblood Britishers and I gotta say if they are all like the ones I met "down under" boy am I glad we chose Australia.

We loved almost everything about Australia and we heard from many Americans who'd moved there that Australia was like the United States used to be before it started going off the rails. We ate crumpets, drank cor-

dials, watched cricket, went to the local races where we watched the horses run in the wrong direction, played tennis and became members of Roteract which was a great group of young men and women whom we enjoyed immensely. My wife became a big hit with her Mexican food which few Aussies had ever tasted. We watched in amusement as their glasses fogged up and they drank copious amounts of water to put out the fire in their bellies. Then they asked for seconds.

The only negative thing I have to say is that we had to suffer the snobbery of some Britishers. It wasn't just us that felt that way, most of the Aussies felt the same way. They called them Bloody POMS, which referred to British prisoners England populated Australia with in the 1800s. It stood for Prisoner of her Majesty, or Prisoner of Her Majesty's Service.

Although we had gained

our independence by then, England tried to do the same thing in the United States. You see, the first son in England inherited everything and many of the second sons were shipped elsewhere and were called "remittance men." Many of them established large ranches in America before they went broke in the big die-up of 1886-87 when tens of thousands of Scottish-owned cattle froze to death on the Great Plains.

Anyway, back to Australia.

We visited many stations (ranches) while we were there and some were started by remittance men from England so there are still lots of purebred Britishers in the country. One we met could supposedly trace his lineage to royalty and, being quite impressed with himself, he let everyone know it. When I said that some of his horses showed a little draft horse breeding with "feathers" of hair on their legs he became very angry and said, "My dear misguided fellow,

unlike you uncouth Americans we do not breed the working stock nor do we work the breeding stock."

Well excuse me!

Once back in America I couldn't wait to tell a British friend of mine about the incident. My friend always told me that he had a relative who came to America as a remittance man. My friend is really down to earth and not at all insufferable and when I told him the above quote he said, "That's the difference between growing up under the thumb of a Monarchy and being bred and born in America. My relatives worked hard without any money from home and like most Americans we sweat and suffered and eventually prospered but we weren't haughty and we didn't look down our noses at the unwashed masses. In fact my father used to tell me that during the dirty thirties if a kid needed shoes and a horse also needed shoes the horse got them every time."



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Falling number researchers scout PNW for hot spots

By **Matthew Weaver**
Capital Press

Northwest researchers will scout a larger footprint as they sample this year's wheat harvest for falling number hot spots.

Amber Hauvermale, Washington State University assistant professor, and Alison Thompson, USDA research biologist, will examine variety trials and wheat breeder samples at WSU, Oregon State University, University of Idaho, High-Line Grain Growers and the McGregor Co.

The testing helps determine whether samples are no-risk, low-risk or high-risk for low falling numbers.

The researchers use both the old falling number test and the new rapid test to determine the cause, whether it's pre-harvest sprouting, late-maturity alpha amylase — the enzyme that causes starch damage — or other causes.

"It's kind of a re-imagining of how falling number testing has happened in the past," Hauvermale said.

It's a two-pronged approach that helps researchers manage both early- and late-stage testing in the supply chain, from seed dealers to farmers in the field to exporters, Hauvermale said.

Each cause occurs at separate times in grain development and differs in severity, but all have the potential to reduce market value, Hauvermale noted in the June 2026 issue of Wheat Life magazine.

The researchers have documents that answer questions they hear directly from farmers. They also offer demonstrations of the rapid test to growers.

It's hard to know how the



Amber Hauvermale sorts through grain samples in order to calibrate the new rapid test in 2023. Washington State University and USDA researchers will sort through up to 3,000 samples in 2025 to assess the starch problem's presence in this year's crop, as well as varieties in development. "We're under the avalanche right now," Hauvermale said in 2025. (Courtesy Alison Thompson/USDA)

growing season has been for low falling number conditions so far, Hauvermale said.

Most of the grain was "probably pretty safe" during a "strange" May freeze, she said.

"But we're going into some unseasonably cool temperatures ... some of the grain may be at the right stage in development," Hauvermale added. "We'll be on the hunt to evaluate whether or not we have problems. Hopefully nothing — every year we're hoping for nothing."

New cause

"We're learning there's a new cause of low falling number on the scene that doesn't have alpha amylase," Hauvermale said.

The new test detects the nonalpha-amylase induced low falling number (NAIL) scenario, she said.

Quality baking testing on those samples doesn't show a problem, but the original test is influenced by protein con-

tent and other factors.

"It gets that call wrong," Hauvermale said. "In that case, growers may be dinged for something that isn't a problem. But we're learning that one's super easy to manage."

Post-harvest blending may be an option for NAIL because there's no alpha-amylase, she noted.

"We're hoping it's one that maybe in the past has been miscategorized as another cause, and really isn't as big

of a problem," Hauvermale said.

Quick test

The quick test has been broadly adopted across the Midwest, Canada, South America and the European Union, for soft and hard wheat market classes.

Will it replace the old, clunkier test?

"I hope that it does," Hauvermale said.

Farmers must reach out to USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service to certify the new test as an industry standard, she said. EnviroLogix, which produces the test, is beginning the certification process.

"There needs to be a groundswell of people saying, 'We want to use this, we need this to be a certified test,'" Hauvermale said. "Once it becomes a certified test, (the industry) will feel more comfortable with adoption because it's been vetted at every level in a very formal way."

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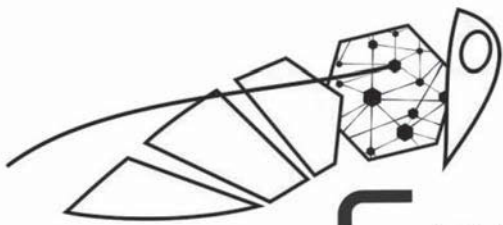
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'98 CASE IH 9370Q, 9711 Hours, PowerShift, 4 Remotes, Trimble EZ-Steer, FM750, 2000 hours on reman Engine, Good Tracks, Consigned.....\$65,000

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



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'23 CASE IH STEIGER 470 AFS CONNECT, 981 hrs Luxury Performance Cab, Engine Brake, True Ground Speed Radar, RH Armrest, AFS Pro 1200, High-Capacity Pump, Performance Lighting, 710/70R42 R1 Duals, Wheel Weights, Ballast Package, Rear Weight Support, Tow Cable\$358,000

'22 CASE IH 500W, 1352 Hours, Luxury Cab, Power Drive, Engine Brake, True Ground Speed Radar, AFS Pro 1200, High Capacity Hydraulic Pump, Performance Lighting, LED Cab Roof Work Lights\$379,900

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'09 Challenger MT655C, 3600 Hrs, 1000 PTO, 3PT, 3 Hyd Outlets, AutoTrac Ready, PowerShift, Front Weights, Tires at 90%, Emissions Elected, Cons\$120,000

'JD 2550, 16.9-30 Alliance Rear Tires, 11.2-24 Alliance Front Tires, Tires at 70%-80%, 2 Remotes, 540 PTO, 3PT, A/C.....\$17,500

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'20 CASE IH 3555, TBT Air Cart, 555 Bushels, High Flotation-Hydraulic Control, Dlx Auger Screen, 650/75R38 High Float Duals, 8 Run Double Shoot, Light Bar, Bulk Tank Work Lights, Sectional Command, Rear Ladder with Folding Steps, Rear Hitch, Tank Fill Indicator, Tillage Mounted Work Switch\$174,900

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

SCHABAU SF.8500, 90' Boom, 1500 Gallon Tank, 100 Gallon Rinse Tank, Tripple Nozzle, 5 Section Control, 380/90R46 Tires, AutoBoom Height\$16,900

'20 JD R4045, 120' Carbon Fiber Booms, Dual Monitor Display, Starfire 6000 Receiver, G4 OS, 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

'08 CASE IH SPX4420, 6013 Hrs, 100', 6 Section, 1200 Gallon Tank, AIM Command, 5 Turret Nozzles, Front and Side Fill, 650-65 R38 Tires, AutoBoom, Fenders, Active Hyd Susp, Guidance Viper 4 (Ravin) Air Compressor, Extra Set of Tires and Wheels, Cons\$85,000

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'04 JD 9760STS, 3607 Sep Hours, 635F Flex Header 914 Pick-up Header, 2970S Hillco Sidehill Leveling System, Beaterless Feeder House Transition, Cons.....\$55,000

'06 JD 9760STS, 3704 Sep Hrs, 635F Flex Header, 914 Pick-up Header, 2970S Hillco Sidehill Leveling System, Beaterless Feederhouse Transition, Cons.....\$55,000

'23 CASE IH 8250, Luxury Cab w/Leather Seat, Harvest Command, w/Camera, Power+ CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Pro 700 Nav Controller 737 Hrs\$591,500

'05 CASE IH 8010, 3554 Engine Hours, 4WD, Leveler, '12 CIH 3020 35' Header Included, Cons\$70,000

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'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 CASE IH 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\$729,500

253 Sep Hrs\$714,500

'21 CASE IH 9250, 1573 HRS Sep Hrs, Luxury Cab, AM/FM/BI 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 CASE IH 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

'23 CASE IH 9250, 497 Sep Hrs, Harvest Command Automation w/Camera, PowerPlus CVT Drive w/Feedrate, Auto Cleaning Fan, In-Cab Adj Cage Vane Control, In-Cab Adj Pre Sieve, Luxury Cab, Pro 700 Large Color Touch Screen, AutoGuidance Nave Controller, LED Light Pkg, Distance Lights, Cross Auger Control\$579,900

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'02 CASE IH 2388, 3458-Sep-hrs, level land, feeder reverser, single spd hydro, 2WD, 208x42 duals, 184x26 rears, new rub bars, Field Tracker\$19,900

'13 8230, 2261 Hrs, Header Tilt, Cross Auger Control, Fine Cut Chopper, HID Lights, Diff Lock, AFS Auto Steer, 520 Front Duals, 750/85R42 Rear\$115,900

Anderson Hay financing pared after creditor objects

By Mateusz Perkowski
Capital Press

A bankruptcy judge has pared back the amount of additional debt that Anderson Hay can incur during its Chapter 11 restructuring after a major creditor objected to its original loan request.

The company has won interim approval to borrow \$1.5 million under a “debtor in possession” financing deal, while the company had requested permission for \$3 million.

Anderson Hay filed for bankruptcy protection last year to shield its assets from foreclosure while reorganizing, but said it needed additional financing to remain operational during the forage harvest season.

The question of whether the company will be allowed to take on more debt is relevant to farmers, who must decide whether to continue doing business with Anderson Hay, said Tim Conway, an attorney representing unsecured creditors, including growers.

“Without the growers, there is no company,” Conway said at a recent bankruptcy hearing. “Do they have the confidence to sell their crops to this debtor, or are they going to take



A judge has pared back the amount of debt Anderson Hay may get as it goes through bankruptcy. The company says the decision could impact grower decisions about whether to sell to it or companies not in bankruptcy. (Washington State Department of Agriculture/Contributed)

them somewhere else?”

Creditor objection

Under Anderson Hay’s original request, the company would obtain a “debtor in possession” financing facility from Conterra Agricultural Capital for a maximum of \$5 million, with the ability to withdraw \$3 million of that amount on an interim basis.

The deal would have given Conterra the first priority for repayment using assets that also serve as collateral for loans made by PGIM Real Estate Finance, a major creditor to Anderson Hay, which is known as “priming.”

PGIM objected to the “priming” proposal, arguing the deal would fail to adequately protect its interests.

Specifically, the creditor cast doubt on the accuracy of property appraisals that Anderson Hay cited in claiming that PGIM would still have sufficient collateral for its loans despite losing top priority for repayment.

PGIM also said that Anderson Hay has failed to prove that it needs the additional debt on an “emergency basis” or that it had sought more favorable loans to the “debtor in possession” financing deal.

The proposal was an attempt to “force a non-consensual priming lien on a creditor,” said Peter Roberts, attorney for PGIM.

“PGIM didn’t put the debtor in this position. The debtor put itself in this position and PGIM doesn’t appreciate being portrayed as the bad guy,” he said.

Sending signal to growers

James Day, attorney for Anderson Hay, said the company had clearly established that it needs additional capital to remain functional during the harvest season.

The controversy over whether Anderson Hay can obtain additional financing is sending signals to farmers that the company may not be able to pay for hay deliveries, he said.

“We can’t emphasize enough the need not to spook these growers with a lot of uncertainty,” Day said, noting that hay prices have recently risen and improved farmers’ options.

“Volumes are getting a little more scarce and these folks have opportunities to sell to other entities that are not in Chapter 11,” he said.

The “debtor in possession” financing deal would still leave PGIM with an adequate “equity cushion” of collateral beyond what it’s owed by Anderson Hay, he said.

Day said he suspects PGIM is objecting to the financing deal to gain leverage for undisclosed reasons, as opposed to genuine concern about protecting its collateral.

“I’m pretty sure there is some other motivation than the preservation of their ability to get paid,” he said.

Meanwhile, Conterra — the lender who is making the additional financing available — may walk away from the deal if Anderson Hay is forced to borrow a lesser amount of money, he said.

“We’re taking that money out of circulation that could be used to make money somewhere else,” Day said.

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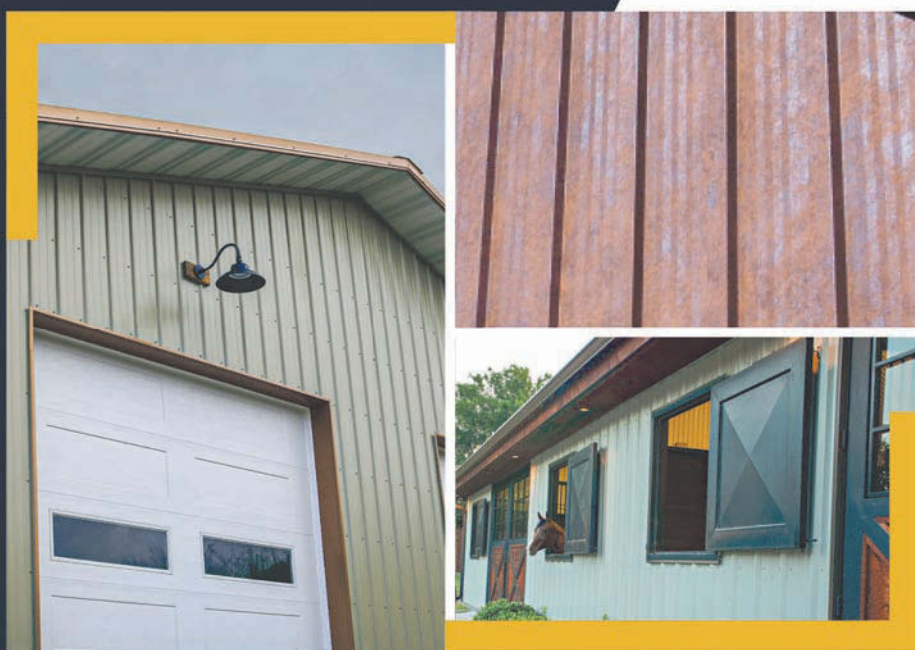
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Juniper removal touted as drought resilience investment

By Mateusz Perkowski
Capital Press

Though lawmakers can't increase precipitation levels in Oregon, they can steer available water to more beneficial uses by investing in juniper removal, experts say.

With Oregon facing its worst drought in over a decade, experts urged lawmakers to keep directing state money to controlling juniper trees, which consume water that can otherwise contribute to in-stream flows and wildlife habitat.

"We're here to tell you one thing you can actually do that is yielding results," said Doug Riggs, lobbyist for the Central Oregon Cities Organization, during a recent legislative hearing. "It's very exciting to see something that works and actually creates water that didn't exist before."

More precisely, cutting, piling and removing junipers prevents them from sucking up the water that Central and Eastern Oregon do



Experts have told Oregon legislators that funding juniper removal is an investment in water resources. Cutting, piling and removing junipers prevents them from sucking up the water that Central and Eastern Oregon do receive, increasing late season stream flows by up to 225%. (Bureau of Land Management/Contributed)

receive, increasing late season stream flows by up to 225%, he said.

Juniper trees have expanded tenfold in Oregon over historical levels, disrupting natural ecological and hydrological cycles to the detriment of native vegetation, experts recently told the House Agriculture Committee.

"Juniper is one of those species that is migrating north as the planet gets drier," said Carlos Ochoa, an

ecohydrology professor at Oregon State University.

The trees are highly adaptable to drought conditions, varying their water uptake depending on how much is available on the landscape, he said. A mature juniper can consume nearly twice as much water in a wet year as in a dry one.

"It pretty much uses as much water as it can use," Ochoa said.

The ability to consume the maximum amount of

water when it's available, but withstand drought conditions when its not, often allows the tree to crowd out vegetation that's important for habitat, such as sage brush, experts said.

A study comparing 250-acre plots over the past two decades has found that untreated juniper trees uptake about 15 times more water annually compared to an area where the trees were removed — 239,000 gallons per acre versus 15,600 gallons per acre.

The treated area was roughly three times more productive than the non-treated site in terms of producing native shrubs and grasses, with continued effects long after the junipers were removed.

The ongoing study is examining when the positive impacts of juniper control begin diminishing, Ochoa said. "So far, 20 years post-treatment, we don't see that happening yet."

In recent years, state investments in juniper

removal have allowed scientists to begin studying its effects on a much larger "landscape" scale: 4,000-14,000 acres, compared to 500 acres, according to experts.

"That really allows us to see how much water is coming out of the system and where it is going," Ochoa said.

In 2023, lawmakers approved \$2.6 million for juniper removal by OSU and soil and water conservation districts in Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake and Wheeler counties.

In 2025, those same counties received another \$4.6 million from the Legislature for juniper removal, plus \$500,000 for monitoring efforts.

Such state investments can be "leveraged" to obtain grant funding from the federal government as well, multiplying their impact, said Jason Kessling, manager of the Harney Soil and Water Conservation District.

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State pesticide warnings pre-empted by federal law

By Mateusz Perkowski
Capital Press

State laws can't impose warning requirements on pesticide labels that aren't mandated by federal pesticide law, according to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The nation's highest court has ruled that the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act pre-empts lawsuits alleging a "failure to warn" of pesticide dangers under state law, such as labels warning of cancer risks posed by glyphosate herbicides.

The Supreme Court has agreed with pesticide manufacturers and agriculture groups who argued that FIFRA is meant to prevent state laws from imposing various warning labels on pesticides if they differ from the labels required by the federal government.

"Uniformity in labeling — the textually stated objective of FIFRA's pre-emption clause — would otherwise be impos-



The U.S. Supreme Court has ruled the Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act pre-empts lawsuits alleging a "failure to warn" of pesticide dangers under state law, such as labels warning of cancer risks posed by glyphosate herbicides. (USDA/Contributed)

sible to achieve," according to the 7-2 opinion written by Associate Justice Brett Kavanaugh, which was joined by most high court members appointed by both Republican and Democratic presidents.

The ruling pertained to a lawsuit filed in 2019 by John Durnell, who persuaded a Missouri jury to award him \$1.25 million in compensation for a blood cancer that he alleged was caused by spraying the

Roundup brand of glyphosate manufactured by Monsanto, a subsidiary of the Bayer chemical company.

The nation's highest court agreed to review the case to resolve a split among federal appellate courts about whether FIFRA bars claims alleging violations of state law "failure to warn" requirements. The ruling is expected to affect similar lawsuits against Monsanto as well as other potential pesti-

cide manufacturers.

Pesticide manufacturers are required to use the labels approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which in this case didn't include a cancer warning, according to the majority's ruling.

Safety labels that are "different from" or "additional to" those required by the EPA are pre-empted by FIFRA, reflecting "Congress's judgment that the ability to sell a product throughout the country with a single label can be important to maintaining an efficient nationwide market," the high court said.

Though Durnell and environmental advocates argued that state law warnings don't necessarily conflict with EPA-approved labels, the Supreme Court's majority said that such a finding would effectively "nullify FIFRA's pre-emption clause and the uniformity that Congress sought for safety warnings on pesticide labels."

The plaintiff claimed that FIFRA allows state law warnings on pesticide labels because they're in line with the federal law's prohibition against misbranding, a position backed by two Supreme Court justices who dissented from the major-

ity opinion — Ketanji Brown Jackson, a Biden nominee, and Neil Gorsuch, a Trump nominee.

"Far from being incompatible, both federal and state law require Monsanto to stop selling its pesticide if the label lacks adequate warnings," according to the dissenting opinion, which was written by Jackson and joined by Gorsuch.

Under FIFRA, the EPA's judgment about whether a pesticide is misbranded is not "infallible," allowing more specific safety warnings required by state law that aren't mandated by the federal label, the dissenting opinion said. "The upshot here is that, even though the EPA approved Roundup's label, that label could still lack a necessary warning."

The majority of the high court rejected that interpretation of the statute, ruling that it would basically "erase" FIFRA pre-emption, since a pesticide manufacturer who unilaterally made such changes without federal approval "would be flouting EPA's regulations and exposing itself to potentially severe federal penalties."

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Oregon's fishing industry celebrates new USDA Office of Seafood

By Kyle Odegard
Capital Press

Oregon's fishing industry has expressed strong support for the new USDA Office of Seafood.

Yelena Nowak, Oregon Trawl Commission director, called the development long overdue and said the agency will provide increased opportunities with grants, marketing and promotions.

Fishermen and seafood processors haven't had access to many USDA programs because of their wild catch, she said.

"We haven't been considered part of agriculture, but fishermen are food producers," Nowak added.

Crystal Adams, Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission executive director, said the office will advocate for the industry, provide greater access for funding and open up new markets.

"I think it will really help," Adams added.

The Office of Seafood will focus on infrastructure, marketing and trade, workforce development, and stronger risk management and disaster assistance, and help coordinate across agencies.

Mike Illenberg, interim director, said many wild caught producers didn't know about potential assistance and

the Office of Seafood will result in better communication about programs to the industry.

"Everybody is really excited about the office. It's been a long time coming. They are looking forward to being treated as part of our food economy holistically," he added.

Federal agencies unified around the development of the office, said Illenberg, who has been with the USDA for 20 years, and also worked in the fishing industry.

According to an Oregon Farm Service Agency news release, restrictions such as low catch limits, selling fishing grounds to foreign countries, inaccurate and outdated fisheries data and delayed technology adoption have prevented Oregon's seafood economy from realizing its potential.

For decades, Oregon fishermen have lost market share and the ability to make a family wage due to federal overregulation, the news release added.

"The creation of the USDA Office of Seafood is exactly the kind of bold, coordinated action our fishing communities have needed for years," said state Sen. Dick Anderson, who represents Newport, Ore., in the news release

Every year, Oregon's seafood industry lands hundreds

of millions of pounds, generates more than \$600 million in dockside value and supports thousands of jobs, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"As large and important as Oregon's fishing industry already is, we must also recognize the tremendous, untapped potential ahead of us. The Office of Seafood will keep fishermen fishing," said state Sen. Suzanne Weber, in the news release.

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Senator to propose hiking tariffs on beef, live cattle

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy will introduce a bill to raise tariffs on foreign beef and cattle, a move a cattlemen's group says will encourage U.S. ranchers to rebuild their herds. The bill also would raise tariffs on shrimp, catfish, crawfish, rice, honey, and sheep and goat meat. In some

cases, the tariffs were fixed in the 1930s. "It's historic and urgently needed," R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard said. "It would immediately restore the confidence ranchers need to make the investments to expand (herds) as quickly as possible." Cassidy, a Louisiana Republican, issued a press release June 25 announcing plans to introduce the Home

Market Restoration Act. Besides raising tariffs, the bill would set quotas on trading partners. Once the quotas were reached, tariffs would rise sharply. The act would protect producers from surging imports and restore fair prices, Cassidy said. Several farm groups and the Coalition for a Prosperous



Cassidy

America, an advocacy group for manufacturers, ranchers and farmers, endorse the bill. Decades of inflation eroded any protection the tariffs once gave U.S. producers, the coalition's trade counsel, Charles Benoit, said in a statement. "A duty fixed at a few cents a pound when Herbert Hoover signed Smoot-Hawley is a rounding error today," he said.

lower and vary by country and weight. "It would discourage imports above the 1.5 million level," Bullard said. "That is the purpose. That's so the United States doesn't continue to rely on foreign countries for our cattle supplies." Beef imports are up 10% so far this year compared to last year, according to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service. Beef imports are up 9% from Brazil, up 13% from Australia, up 25% from Mexico and up 116% from Argentina.

Trump administration officials told cattlemen's groups in mid-May it planned to lower tariffs on beef for 200 days in an effort to lower retail meat prices. Cattlemen's groups opposed the tariff reduction and the announcement never came. Bullard said importing more beef hasn't lowered consumer prices so far. In the long run, consumers will benefit if U.S. ranchers are confident they won't be undercut by foreign beef, he said.

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Canada looks to grow more, reduce food imports

By Kyle Odegard
Capital Press

Canada's first Food Security Strategy could curb fresh produce and processed food shipments from the U.S. and result in more competition from our northern neighbor in American grocery stores, according to a new USDA report.

The strategy, announced June 11, includes investments of \$2 billion in U.S. dollars over 10 years.

The plan aims to boost Canadian food production and processing and reduce reliance on foreign food suppliers.

"Canada is one of the world's great food producers, but too much of what we grow is processed elsewhere and too many Canadians still rely on imported food at higher prices," said Prime Minister Mark Carney.

The strategy will lower costs, create jobs, and build a food system that is more resilient, more competitive and more Canadian, he

added, in a statement.

Boosting Canadian produce production

The plan includes \$550 million for expanding year-round Canadian production of fresh fruits and vegetables, including through greenhouses, vertical farms and other enclosed growing spaces.

Canada currently captures about half of U.S. produce shipments to foreign countries, but the value has remained flat between 2019 and 2025 at about \$3.5 billion, according to the USDA report.

"In contrast, U.S. imports of fresh produce from Canada increased by more than 60% during the same period, reaching almost \$3 billion in 2025," wrote Mihai Lupescu, of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

"The measures in the food security strategy related to boosting fresh produce production grown in greenhouses will reduce Canada's dependence on imports, while increasing

Canada's potential to export and compete in the United States in this market segment," Lupescu added.

Jon DeVaney, president of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association, said Canada's Food Security Strategy highlights the very competitive nature of fresh produce and agricultural markets in general.

"We as U.S. producers

can't assume market conditions will remain stable and favorable," he added.

Increasing Canadian food processing

The U.S. also is the largest supplier of processed food to Canada, which plans to spend \$900 million to increase its processing capacity.

Canada hopes to raise the share of processed food

consumed in Canada that was domestically produced from 70% to 80%.

U.S. exports of processed food to Canada increased nearly 30% in value from 2019 to 2025, hitting \$16 billion, according to the USDA report.

Canadian shipments of processed food into the U.S. jumped almost 70% in the same period to \$24 billion.



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Study: Wind, solar projects will need thousands of square miles

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

A study sponsored by Northwest electric utilities predicts that meeting Washington and Oregon's climate goals will require building 600 more utility-scale wind and solar installations.

The windmills and solar panels would span 9,200-square miles, roughly the size of Vermont, according to the study by Energy and Environmental Economics.

A high number of wind and solar projects are needed because they only produce power part time, E3 senior partner Arne Olson told

Washington's Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council on June 17.

The projects would be distributed in a six-state region that also includes Idaho, Montana, Utah and Wyoming to ensure windmills were rotating somewhere when demand peaks.

"I can only imagine that local opposition and conflicts will become an even larger issue than they have been in the past," Olson said.

Oregon and Washington are committed to reducing carbon emissions by 95% below 1990 levels by 2050. Meanwhile, the demand for



A study commissioned by Northwest electric utilities projects it will take another 600 utility-sized wind and solar projects to meet Oregon and Washington's climate goals and the growing demand for electricity. (Don Jenkins/Capital Press)

electricity is expected to roughly double by then.

E3 projects that cutting emissions and supplying electricity will require building 63 gigawatts of wind power, 62 gigawatts of solar power, 31 gigawatts of batteries and still adding 24 gigawatts of natural gas.

Washington and Oregon plan to eliminate natural gas from the grid. But without more natural gas, the region would have to build another

30 gigawatts of wind and another 140 gigawatts of batteries, causing electric rates to shoot up, according to the study.

Projects will have to come online soon to keep pace with demand, Olson said. "We'll need to be prepared to do a lot more work in this region than we've had to in the past," he said.

"We're building out a wind fleet that's twice the size of our existing hydro fleet," Olson said. "We're building out a solar fleet that's twice the size of our hydro fleet."

Farmers could graze livestock or grow crops between windmills. But the study found that new renewable energy projects would still take up more than 8,300-square miles.

In Washington, most windmills and solar panels

are built on flat farmland east of the Cascade Range. Several Eastern Washington counties have sought to place moratoriums on new energy developments.

"I think we've met our tolerance level," said state Rep. Mary Dye, the top-ranking Republican on the House Environment and Energy Committee and a wheat farmer in Garfield County.

Farmers who lease land for projects benefit, but others see windmills and solar panels as intrusions and batteries as flammable hazards, she said.

"It's creating conflicts within small towns where everyone is related to everyone else," she said. "We're literally being told we have to have this because it will solve the world's problems."

The Washington Legislature this year created an electric transmission authority with the power to acquire land for new power lines by eminent domain.

The region should look at increasing hydropower production before taking land for windmills, solar panels and batteries, Dye said.

If the transmission authority exercises eminent domain, "it's going to be pretty hot," she said. "I don't think people are going to be happy."

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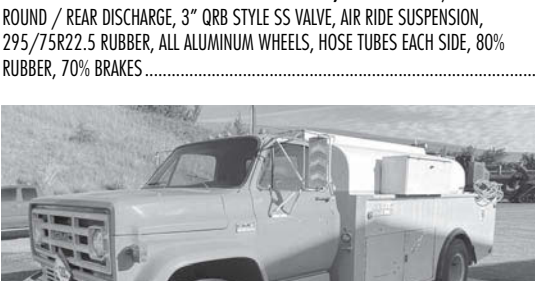
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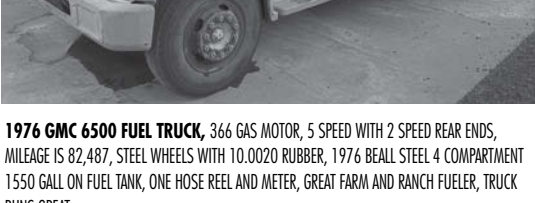
1988 BARBEL STAINLESS STEEL TANK TRAILER, 7000 GALLONS, 1 COMPARTMENT, DOUBLE CONICAL / CENTER DISCHARGE, SPRING RIDE SUSPENSION, 295/75R22.5 TIRES, STEEL WHEELS, 3" STAINLESS QRB STYLE VALVE AT THE CENTER, HOSE TRAY RIGHT SIDE, 60% BRAKES, 60% TIRES, BAR-BEL 42' 7000 GAL SS TANKER



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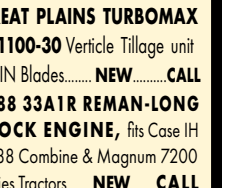
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Oklahoma State releases ‘hard purple wheat’

By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

Oklahoma State University is working to release high anti-oxidant varieties of wheat in purple, blue and eventually, a darker, almost black color.

The university has released OSU-P92.

“It’s hard purple wheat, and it has functionality like a hard red winter wheat,” Oklahoma State regents professor Brett Carver told Capital Press.

It’s part of his efforts to develop traits directly of interest to consumers.

The purple color appears on the outer layers of the grain, the bran. When milled with the inner layers, the flour appears normal, possibly with a slight purple tinge, Carver said.

Whole-grain or whole-meal flour would appear purple, as would products made from the flour, Carver said.



Dr. Brett Carver poses with wheat in the Peanut greenhouses on the Agronomy Farm at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater on Friday, Feb. 6, 2026. (Photo by Mitchell Alcalá/OSU Agriculture)

OSU-P92 also contains anthocyanins, food pigments found in pomegranates and blueberries, which provide antioxidants that benefit gut and brain health, according to Oklahoma State. Carver was after qualities not normally present in winter wheat.

Red or white wheats normally produce a basic level of anthocyanins, but not enough to really matter, Carver said.

The purple wheat bran

increases the concentration three-fold, and the blue wheat increases five-fold or six-fold.

The increase from the black wheat is not yet known, “but theoretically, it could be even greater,” he said.

Benefits of the colored-bran wheat would come through a whole wheat product, Carver said, which would add the side benefit of consuming more fiber.

White flour contains around 3% fiber, while whole wheat products contain 11% to 12%.

The purple wheat could be used in a whole-wheat bread or tortilla. Carver sees possibilities for isolating the bran as a natural food additive, such as adding fiber to a snack bar without diluting the flour.

He’s been told by millers that there is a slight difference in the flavor. An upcoming sensory panel will compare tastes.

The variety is already available to Oklahoma farmers on a limited basis. The university will roll it out on a grander scale in the next year, Carver said.

Anthocyanins are unstable compounds prone to weathering in the fields, including sunlight or rain. OSU-P92 retains its purple hue over several weeks, enough to get through rainfall events, which retains

the anthocyanins.

“If you’re going to harvest something first, make this your first harvest,” Carver said.

Farmers are advised to treat the wheat like a hard red winter wheat, but must keep the wheat separate to maintain its value. Any dilution with red wheat dilutes the health benefit, Carver said.

He expects high interest in speciality markets and smaller flour mills.

“I think we’re going to see a pretty good adoption rate,” he said. “Even in the bigger mills, but I think that will take some time.”

Purple wheat won’t replace red or white wheat, on domestic or export markets, Carver said.

“But if there’s anything to expand upon the choices that consumers want in the grocery store, this would be the way to accomplish that,” he said.

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UC Davis student-led program develops blue wheat

By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

A student-led wheat breeding program at University of California-Davis has developed a blue wheat.

The Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education (SCOPE) program develops varieties adapted to small-scale organic farming systems in California and trains university students in plant breeding.

“Organic and whole grain flours are still relatively small markets, but it’s growing,” said Laura Roser, SCOPE co-coordinator. “Just based on the number of emails I get from farmers asking for advice,

there’s been increasing interest in growing organic grains across the western states.”

The blue pigment didn’t originate from common wheat but comes from wild relatives — tall wheat grass and einkorn that originated in Inner Mongolia, Roser said.

The blue color was crossed into common wheat from those wild relatives to produce experimental lines.

“We then crossed these colorful experimental wheat lines with modern wheat varieties, primarily those bred by the UC Davis Small Grains Breeding Program, and selected for color intensity,” Roser said. “The seed is blue, but the rest of



University of California-Davis students have developed a blue wheat variety as part of the Student Collaborative Organic Plant Breeding Education (SCOPE) program, which develops varieties adapted to small-scale organic farming systems in California and trains university students in plant breeding. (Laura Roser/University of California-Davis)

the plant looks no different from the average wheat plant. The flour is also blue, as long as it is whole grain.”

The blue color should be reduced or absent if

the flour is refined, which removes the bran, she said.

“The color of the products we’ve baked with blue wheat depends on the pH,” she added. “More acidic

(lower pH) baked goods will be blue-pink, while more basic (higher pH) baked goods will be more gray-green.”

Other colors in the works include purple and charcoal.

Researchers are still working on the tasting notes, Roser said. They’re testing performance with a variety of whole wheat products.

“So far, we’ve made sourdough and straight dough (baker’s yeast) breads, enriched breads, crackers, muffins, and pasta,” she said. “Our hope is that artisanal millers and bakers who are already passionate about whole grains, heritage grains, and variety-preserved flours will be interested in trying out our colorful wheats.”

UC Davis plans to release one or two blue wheat varieties this year. They’re producing breeder’s seed, so it will be several more years until there’s enough for wider-scale production and availability through seed companies.



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House Republicans roll out ag workforce legislation

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

Idaho Rep. Mike Simpson said unchecked illegal immigration made passing legislation to legalize farmworkers impossible. Now, he said, the job is merely tough.

Simpson, a Republican, joined other lawmakers and farm group leaders June 30 at a press conference in Washington, D.C., to roll out the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act.

The act would allow established farmworkers to apply for legal status in the H-2A guest worker program. "This is a tough challenge," Simpson said.



U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho, speaks at a press conference June 30 at the nation's Capitol on the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act. (House Agriculture Committee/Contributed)

"Anytime you say the word 'H-2A,' 'immigration,' anything like that, it creates controversy," he said. "Since the president has closed the border, I think we can get this

done."

The bill's prime sponsor, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "GT" Thompson, R-Pennsylvania, agreed a secure border will

help the bill's chances.

"The border is under control, finally, by the United States of America. I like to say the border has always been under control. It was just by the cartels previously," he said.

Farm groups long anticipated a labor reform bill and have hurried to endorse this one. Thompson said he expects "an army" of co-sponsors, including some Democrats.

Besides potentially legalizing workers, the bill would let farmers fill year-round jobs with foreign guest farmworkers, opening the H-2A program to dairies, nurseries and livestock operations.

New York Rep. Josh Riley observed he was probably the only Democrat at the crowded press conference, but his upstate dairy farmers want a legal workforce, he said.

"When I visit our dairy farms and ask what keeps them up at night, the answer I get the most is that our immigration system is completely broken," he said.

The bill also would codify Labor Department rules intended to slow down the growth of H-2A wages. The United Farm Workers are suing in federal court to overturn those rules, contending they will hold down wages for U.S. farmworkers, as well.

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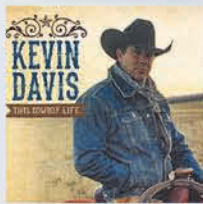
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Taproots Farm Hub builds momentum

By Brad Carlson
Capital Press

Taproots Farm Hub formed in 2025 with a goal to create a southwest Idaho incubator that enables emerging farmers to build viable operations amid continued development pressure.

Leasing organic farmland is the theme of meet-and-greet sessions the non-profit plans from 6-8 p.m. June 22 at Meadowlark Farm in Nampa and July 20 at Western Collective in Garden City.

Each of the monthly sessions held so far, on various topics, has attracted a diverse group, executive director Casey O'Leary said. "What we are doing is building a community of people who can work together to make things happen."

Collaborative agricultural systems is the focus of a summit Taproots plans Sept. 28 at the Idaho State Historical Museum in Boise. Accessing and coordinating long-term leases on shared land to help farmers transition to organic production and certification, sharing equipment and infrastructure among multiple certified organic farms, and aggregating products to sell to distributors and vendors are among topics.

A summit goal is to bring people together to learn about and discuss innovative ideas for developments that protect agriculture, and collaborations that help farmers be more successful, O'Leary said.

Early stage farmer challenges

For many aspiring, new and small-scale producers, "the way we have been doing agriculture up to the present isn't working," she said. "We have to think about ways to support beginning farmers and facilitate some amount of farmland in order to feed ourselves in an uncertain future."

Taproots is spearheaded by small-scale farmers who understand existing barriers, said O'Leary, Snake

River Seed Cooperative general manager and a former longtime College of Western Idaho horticulture instructor. "We're designing something that will allow new farmers to get access to equipment, to mentorship, to training and to markets — and that benefits the whole community."

Many small-scale farmers in the area have leases shorter than five years, she said.

Taproots seeks a 40- to 200-acre site — on which multiple farmers would operate and receive training — and a lease of 30-99 years. The organization in turn would extend long-term leases to farmers operating on the incubator.

"There are several landowners we are chatting with," O'Leary said.

Working together

Taproots working group members Joe Redden of Black Fox Farm and Lyndsey Mulherin of Whistlepig Farm operate on land leased short-term in the Dry Creek area northwest of Boise. They plan to pursue leasing space on the future incubator site.

"Joe and I have built some infrastructure together," Mulherin said. They share some costs, workload, building space and equipment. They work together to supply produce for a community supported agriculture (CSA) subscription program.

With two farmers, resources are limited, Mulherin said. On a farm incubator site leased long term, more producers could share resources and create community.

Incubator-based farmers could collaborate on many aspects of production, Redden said. For example, the larger group could grow and scale the CSA "with more farmers, more space and more pickups around the (Treasure) valley."

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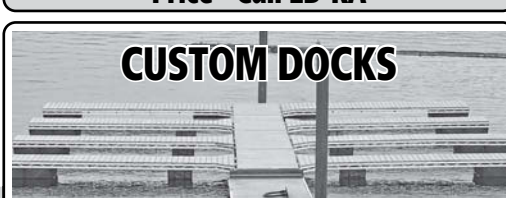

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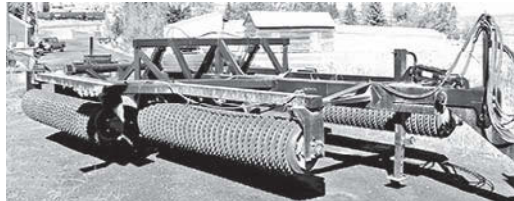

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Idaho vineyards off to strong start

By Brad Carlson
Capital Press

CALDWELL, Idaho — James Nederend's vineyards and grapes on June 24 looked like they usually do July 15.

"The entire season is running at least three weeks ahead of average this year," said Nederend, who owns Koenig Vineyards in the Sunnyslope area between Caldwell and Marsing in southwest Idaho.

Bud break, bloom and fruit set occurred earlier than normal due to an unusually warm winter, a mild spring and pleasant early summer, he said.

Koenig may be harvesting rose' fruit by the end of August, whereas in some years it's October when crews start picking, Nederend said.

"If it holds, this could be one of the earliest harvests we've ever seen," he said.

Some grape growers had frost problems, said Ron Bitner of Bitner Vineyards, also in the Sunnyslope area.

"We didn't lose anything," he said. His location on a steep, primarily south-facing slope above the Snake River helped.

Vineyard growth progress is around average, Bitner said.

He and his team prune for moderate yield per acre rather than for heavy loads, partly to make it easier to



Syrah grapes at Bitner Vineyards June 24, 2026. Idaho growers say grapes are ahead of normal this year. (Ron Bitner/Contributed)

optimize sugar levels.

"I'm taking out old vines and converting some of the vineyards to pollinator strips for bees," said Bitner, a bee scientist.

Improving soil health is another targeted benefit of removing the chardonnay blocks, planted in 1981-82.

In north-central Idaho, Art McIntosh of Lindsay Creek Vineyards near Lewiston said progress looks normal.

"Things just look really good right now," he said. Light rain has come around every 7-10 days, which is "almost ideal."

"The weather has been pretty good for us," McIntosh said.

At Koenig Vineyards, fruit set occurred under nice conditions and the crop load is "healthy, balanced and clean," Nederend said.

One concern is the potential for increased insect pressure following the warm winter, he said.

"Because of the increased risk of insect and disease pressure, we have increased our vineyard monitoring and maintained a more aggressive

spray schedule than in past seasons," Nederend said.

In a typical year, mildew spraying may "stretch" to every three to four weeks, he said. "This season we have remained on a two-week interval to keep fruit clean and healthy."

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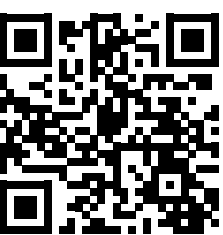


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Idaho is American ag's bird flu hotspot

By Kyle Odegard
Capital Press

Idaho has been American agriculture's hotspot for highly pathogenic avian influenza since mid-June. During the week of June 22-28, Idaho had eight new cases in dairy herds as well as a poultry farm in Canyon County with 3,000 affected birds.

"It's just surging now," said Scott Leibsle, Idaho state veterinarian. The poultry operation was affected by a nearby dairy farm, he added. In the past 30 days ending June 29, Idaho has had 40 confirmed cases of HPAI in dairy herds. Across the U.S., there have only been five other

cases in the past month, with three in Utah and two in Texas. **Influx of cases for Idaho every May and June** The bird flu strain in Idaho dairy herds isn't spread by wild birds, but by bovines themselves. Leibsle wasn't sure why Idaho herds were being hit so hard with the disease but said the state has seen an influx of infections in April, May and June since 2024. Idaho is considering aggressive early surveillance and sampling for the disease next March. Leibsle also hopes that options for treating bird flu continue to expand. "If there is a vaccine in



The U.S. has had 1,154 livestock herds affected with highly pathogenic avian influenza since March 2024. Idaho is second in the nation with 172 cases and has seen an influx since mid-April. (USDA/Contributed)

development, we would certainly be open to trying it out," he said. "Biosecurity only goes so far when you have a dairy of several thousand cattle that are infected with the virus," Leibsle added. He stressed that any vaccine participation would be voluntary — dairies willing to try it out would make that choice. Leibsle said highly pathogenic avian influenza is not a food safety problem. Infected cows are quarantined but can continue to produce, as pasteurized milk from them does not present a human health concern. "This is an animal welfare and continuity of business issue," Leibsle said. He added that the disease is serious, so preventing its spread is important. Unlike birds, which HPAI kills, dairy cattle that contract bird flu generally overcome their sickness and return to a productive career. "They are seeming to recover faster," Leibsle said. He said a hotter, drier summer may help halt the spread of bird flu.

California leads nation in HPAI livestock cases During the course of the outbreak, which first affected cattle in 2024, Idaho has had 172 affected herds, with all but one on dairy milking cow premises. That's second to California, the leading dairy producer in the nation, which has had 773 cases. California hasn't had a new case in a livestock herd since November, however. Oregon, meanwhile, has had one case with a backyard producer and Washington has had zero livestock herd cases.

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Earliest start ever for Walla Walla sweet onion harvest

By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

WALLA WALLA, Wash. — Walla Walla sweet onions this year got their earliest start on record due to the mild winter this year.

Typically, harvest begins around June 10 to 15. But this year, farmers started June 1, said Michael J. Locati, president of the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Marketing Committee and a Walla Walla sweet onion farmer in Walla Walla, Wash.

A federal marketing order regulates the handling of sweet onions grown in the Walla Walla Valley of southeast Washington and northeast Oregon. About 10 farmers raise the niche onions on about 450 acres.

Due to the warmer winter, some fields had some seed issues. “But we got through those,” Locati said. “The crop looks pretty good as far as quality for what’s there.”

Locati expects Walla Walla sweet onion harvest will last into the second week of August, on track with previous years.

‘Hiccup’ in onion market

Supply is up, and the amount of onion units shipped is up so far, Locati said.

He points to a “hiccup”

in the overall onion market, with heat in California, storms and “volatile weather.”

That’s less competition for Walla Walla sweets in the Pacific Northwest from other onions, he said.

“It’s positive when you have a market that wants your crop, but it means that somebody else had a pretty big issue,” Locati said.

Selling Walla Walla sweets

Locati Farms sells 10-pound bags of jumbo and sweet onions at \$15, and 25-pound bags at \$20.

“Prices are flat to down from last year, and production prices are up significantly,” Locati said. “Obviously, the price of gas is much higher than it was last summer. The price of fuel and fertilizer this spring was much higher, especially the specialty fertilizers that we use to raise onions specifically. It’s definitely another tough year profit-loss wise. But we’re optimistic that people will continue to buy onions, and we will continue to ship them.”

Walla Walla sweets have a long-standing partnership with the Burger-ville restaurant chain, which will use onions throughout their stores this summer, including fresh onions, grilled on

burgers and onion rings, Locati noted.

Watching the weather

Farmers are watching the weather, Locati said.

“I don’t know if it’s been hot, but it just feels like it’s been pretty direct sunlight, not a lot of clouds,” he said.

That can lead to sun spots and sunburns on the onions. Farmers apply a literal sun screen, a calcium carbonate base product, to protect the crop. It rubs off as the onions enter packaging.

“The best thing is just to get them harvested,” Locati said.



Michael J. Locati, president of the Walla Walla Sweet Onion Marketing Committee, says farmers had the earliest harvest start on record June 1. (Michael J. Locati/Contributed)

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Which property owners receive notices first is yet to be finalized, he said.



Part of the Kootenai River in northern Idaho. Idaho Department of Water Resources staff plan to start sending Kootenai River Basin adjudication notices starting in early fall. (Idaho Department of Fish and Game/Contributed)

Trump lifts anti-dumping tariff on Moroccan fertilizer

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

President Trump suspended anti-dumping duties on Moroccan phosphate fertilizer, a move the USDA estimates will reduce prices by 22% and save U.S. farmers \$1.82 billion a year.

Trump signed the proclamation June 29 lifting for eight months penalties the U.S. International Trade Commission imposed in 2021 in response to complaints Moroccan fertilizer imports undercut U.S. chemical companies.

A Texas A&M University study this year concluded the initial 19.97% duty raised the price of diammonium phosphate by 28.6% and cost growers of major crops \$6.9 billion between 2021 and 2025.

Farmers face even higher costs because the conflict with Iran has disrupted the supply of fertilizers from other countries. The U.S. doesn't produce enough phosphate fertilizer to meet domestic demand, according to the presidential proclamation.

Suspending the duties will help U.S. farmers compete in international markets, said National Association of Wheat Growers President Jamie Kress, an Idaho farmer.

The wheat growers estimated the duties cost wheat growers alone \$966 million between 2021 and 2025.

"This is welcome relief for America's wheat farmers," Kress said in a statement. "While farmers cannot control global markets or supply chain disruptions, actions like this



President Trump, seen here in June 22 at the White House, signed a proclamation June 29 suspending anti-dumping duties on Moroccan phosphate fertilizer for eight months to lower domestic fertilizer prices. (White House/Contributed)

help reduce input costs and provide greater certainty during periods of volatility."

Duties imposed in 2021 The U.S. also imposed countervailing duties in 2021 on phosphate fertilizers from Russia. The wheat association favored lifting the anti-dumping duties on Russia, too. But trade officials recommended June 29 keeping those duties in place.

Morocco holds nearly 70% of the global phosphate reserves and prior to 2021 was historically the largest foreign supplier of phosphate fertilizer to the U.S. In 2019, it imported 2 million metric tons of phosphate to the U.S., but imports declined to almost zero after the duties were imposed.

The U.S. initially placed a 19.97% countervailing duty on Moroccan fertilizer. The Department of Commerce lowered the rate in 2023 to 2.12%, but raised it the following year to 16.8%.

The Mosaic Company, the largest U.S. producer of phosphate fertilizer, petitioned the government to impose duties on

Moroccan and Russian phosphate fertilizers.

Mosaic said in a statement that countervailing duties on phosphate fertilizer from Morocco and Russia are necessary to ensure competitive domestic production and fair trade, and to decrease U.S. agriculture's reliance on global supply chains.

The unfair subsidies received by Moroccan and Russian phosphate producers and the injury they have caused to the domestic phosphate industry have been confirmed numerous times over the past five years, Mosaic stated.



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WSTFA apple crop forecasts stopped due to inaccuracy

By Kyle Odegard
Capital Press

The Washington State Tree Fruit Association will stop early-season apple crop estimates as the projections no longer accurately capture what fruit is harvested and sent to market — and growers believe inflated figures

harmed price negotiations in recent years.

Jon DeVaney, WSTFA president, said the forecasts made more sense in earlier eras, when every apple that met minimum grade standards would be harvested.

With an oversupply, profitability is at the forefront of farmers' minds.

Growers are focusing on quality and still must weigh the cost of picking fruit versus fluctuating prices, DeVaney added.

"Economic factors are playing a greater and greater role in what fruit is actually brought to market," he said.

The projections carried the air of certainty and led



Apple crop projections carried the air of certainty and led to misunderstandings in recent years. Industry members have had to argue with retailers that the harvest wouldn't be as large as expected, said Jon DeVaney, president of the Washington State Tree Fruit Association. (USDA/Contributed)

to misunderstandings.

Industry members have had to argue with retailers that the harvest wouldn't be as large as expected, DeVaney said.

Other factors including fruit sizing, packouts, poor weather and evolving growing conditions also can alter the final crop outcome, making early estimates increasingly challenging, he wrote in an email to growers.

First crop report will be released Dec. 1

DeVaney added that WSTFA will wait until later in the season to publish formal crop reports to provide more accurate data to the industry and marketplace. Weekly reports on apple shipments will continue, however.

The Aug. 1 forecast, and October and November storage reports, which have had estimates of fruit yet to be harvested, will no longer be collected or published.

The first official WSTFA apple crop report will be released Dec. 1.

DeVaney said there's less urgency for early estimates with apples because they can be stored for long periods before heading to grocery stores or foreign shores.

Other fresh fruit segments are time sensitive, so keeping industry and retailers informed of the developing crop becomes more important, he said.

For example, while an apple can make its way to consumers a year after harvest, cherries are shipped the day after being picked, DeVaney said.



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Economist: Early season cherry prices concerning

By Kyle Odegard
Capital Press

Cherry prices and volumes through late June indicate this won't be the strong year Pacific Northwest growers needed to return to profitability, according to a new analysis.

"The pricing picture for sweet cherries is concerning at this point in the season," said Tim Delbridge, an Oregon State University agricultural economist.

"We may see prices come back up at the end of the season," he added.

Jon DeVaney, Washington State Tree Fruit Association president, said retailers are catching up to volume from an earlier than normal harvest.

"It's been better than last year so far," DeVaney said.

Big gap with shipping and retail prices

Growers won't know exact marketable yields or prices received for several months, but shipping point price and volumes moved provide some information on the state of the market, Delbridge wrote, in a recent edition of the OSU Applied Economics Blog.

Delbridge said shipping point prices — which are closer to what a grower receives than grocery store prices — are as low as the disastrous 2023 season.

As of June 24, there was a more than \$2 per pound dif-

ference between shipping point and advertised retail promotional price for the month, which is among the largest observed since 2021.

The difference between retail prices and shipping point prices represents the amount of the consumer food dollar that goes to distributors, retailers and shipping costs, Delbridge said.

"The shipping point and retail prices mostly move in the same direction, but the dynamics can shift from year to year," he wrote.

Earlier cherry season than normal

DeVaney said overall pricing has been decent, but not as good as originally hoped for with a slightly smaller crop.

"Part of the reason for that was earlier timing," he added.

Delbridge said USDA data shows that cherry volume was a couple of weeks early in both California and then the Pacific Northwest this year, but the seasons didn't overlap, which is normally an encouraging sign.

DeVaney said retailers weren't initially pricing and promoting the crop in a way that would move that early volume very well.

A critical year for farms

Delbridge said this was a critical year for cherry farmers.

"Two out of the last three years have been very chal-

lenging for producers as sweet cherry prices fell below the cost of harvest for some varieties in 2023 and again in 2025," Delbridge added.

"Production costs have been increasing at the same time, putting extra pressure on farms," he wrote.

Industry leaders have said that some orchard acreage will go unmanaged near The Dalles, Ore., and another bad year could result in bankruptcies.



Cherries hang from a tree on May 27 near The Dalles, Ore. Oregon State University agricultural economist Tim Delbridge said this was a critical year for cherry growers, as prices fell below the cost of harvest for some varieties in 2023 and 2025. Production costs also have increased, putting even more pressure on farmers. (Kyle Odegard/Capital Press)

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Pacific Northwest fertilizer prices resume upward climb

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

Pacific Northwest fertilizer costs rose in June to their highest levels since the conflict with Iran began, even as prices in other regions mostly fell or were unchanged, according to USDA reports.

After holding steady since mid-April, fertilizer prices spurted upward in Washington and Oregon

over a two-week period that ended June 26.

The price of urea rose 7.7% to average \$1,099 per ton, ammonium sulfate rose 13.4% to \$768, liquid nitrogen climbed 9.8% to \$879 and monoammonium phosphate went up 4.8% to \$1,179.

Urea, one of the fertilizers most affected by the closing of the Strait of Hormuz, has increased by 28.6% since



The USDA reports that fertilizer prices in the Pacific Northwest increased in June as they fell in other areas of the country. USDA/Contributed

late February. The Fertilizer Institute, a trade group, said earlier in the month that restor-

ing disrupted supply-chains will take time as backed-up ships exit the strait and fertilizer plants reopen.

Still, other regions of the U.S. have already seen prices drop. Over the past two weeks, urea fell 3.2% in Iowa, 12% in Illinois and 16.8% in Oklahoma. In the Intermountain West, urea rose less than 1% to \$876 per ton.

Efforts to obtain comment from The Fertilizer Institute on the Northwest's still-rising fertilizer prices were unsuccessful.

The Northwest had the highest average prices for urea, liquid nitrogen, monoammonium phosphate and ammonium sulfate prior to the conflict.

Fertilizer production in the West is concentrated in other regions, such as southeast Idaho, Wyoming and Utah. Fertilizer prices are customarily higher in the Northwest, Washington Dairy Federation policy director Jay Gordon said.

"It's always been that way. We don't have a competitive advantage on fertilizer prices," he said.

Federal Trade Commission Chairman Andrew Ferguson said in May that the FTC will investigate fertilizer prices. The FTC has no evidence of price fixing, but has heard complaints from farmers about high prices, he said.

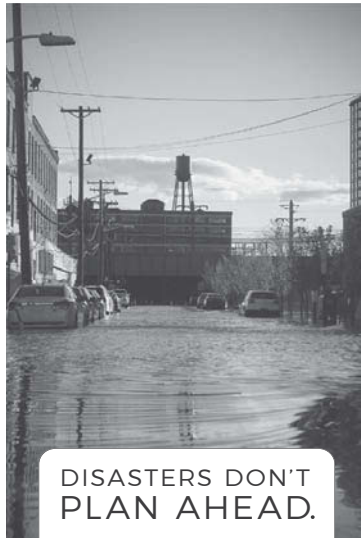


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Dairy heifer inventories to stay low before '27 rebound

By Brad Carlson
Capital Press

The number of heifers available to enter the U.S. milking herd has dropped to its lowest level since 1978.

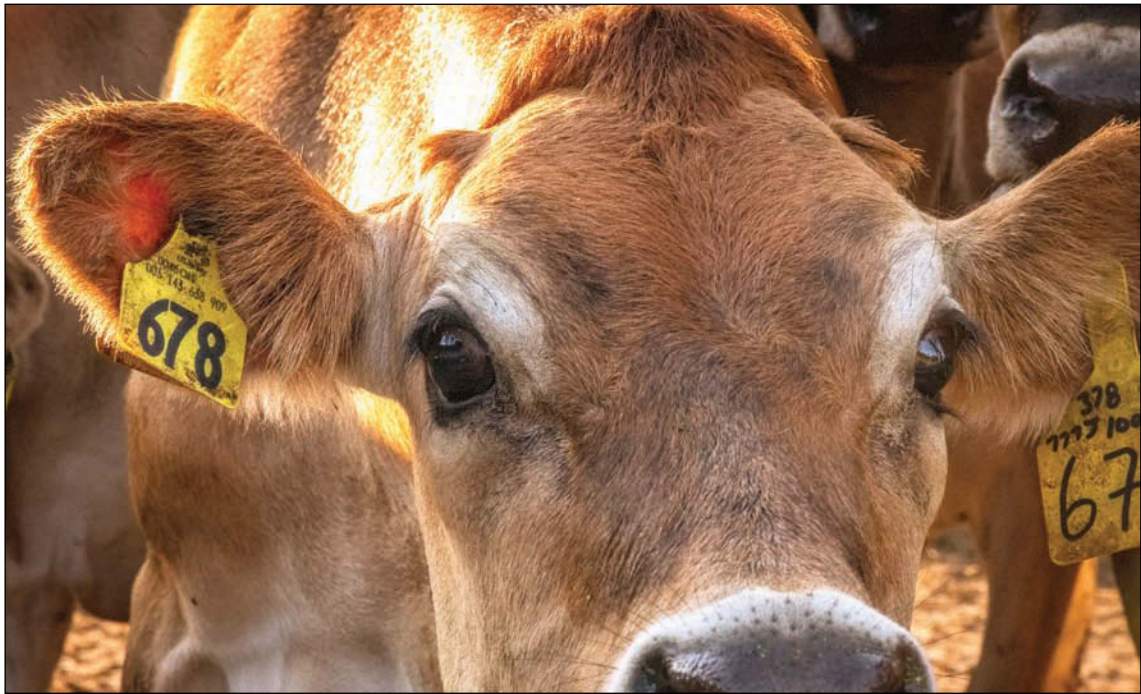
The decline comes as the total dairy herd reaches a 30-year population high at the same time strong financial incentives prompt operators to produce calves destined for the beef supply rather than milk production, according to a CoBank report. Replacement heifer supplies are expected to shrink further this year before starting to rebound in 2027.

“On most dairy farms, net margins are currently being driven by the beef check, not the milk check,” CoBank lead dairy economist Corey Geiger said in a news release.

Five years ago, calf and cull cow sales accounted for 5% of a dairy farm’s bottom line while milk sales represented 95% of revenue, he said. Beef sales today account for 12-15% of revenue for many farms, with some operations approaching 20% on a per-hundred-weight (cwt) basis.

“That shift is reshaping the U.S. dairy herd, most notably through the decline in replacement heifers,” Geiger said.

The U.S. beef cattle herd



CoBank reports that the number of heifers entering the milking herd is the lowest since 1978 as producers are moving more calves to the beef market. (USDA/Contributed)

is at a 75-year low and beef prices are a record highs.

Nondairy breeding

Dairy farmers are increasingly using gender-sorted semen, genomics and beef-on-dairy strategies to optimize breeding for both production and profitability, according to CoBank.

Gender-sorted dairy semen is purchased for producing replacement heifers. Beef semen is purchased for producing beef-on dairy calves.

Beef-on-dairy semen sales rose 62% from 2020 to 2025, according to the report. Gender-sorted semen sales increased by 53.6%. Conventional dairy semen sales fell 47.4%.

The surge in beef semen

sales to dairy farmers in 2023 will continue to suppress replacement heifer inventories this year due to the three-year biological cycle from conception to first calving, Abbi Prins, CoBank agricultural commodities economist, said in the release. The bank’s modeling shows a decrease this year followed by a 2027 increase totaling about 65% of the 2026 reduction.

“Over time, we expect dairy farmers will continue rebalancing their breeding programs to optimize production for both beef and dairy markets,” she said. “But dairy will continue to play a significant role in the beef supply for the foreseeable future, as rebuilding the beef cat-

tle herd will take several years.”

Strong consumer demand for high-quality protein has placed dairy farmers in a unique position to capture growing revenue streams from both beef and milk sales, according to CoBank. But the timing differs. Raising dairy replacements requires a two-year investment, while selling beef-on-dairy cross calves provides immediate income.

REPORT DETAIL:

<https://tinyurl.com/f8b-2khp2>

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Washington Grain Commission approves \$8.2 million budget

By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

Washington Grain Commission board members recently approved an \$8.2 million budget, down 1.7% from nearly \$8.4 million the previous year.

The commission expects to bring in nearly \$5 million in revenue, down from nearly \$6 million the previous year. Assessments are based on a percentage of the net sale value that farmers receive.

With “stubbornly low prices,” it’s the third year that wheat assessments will be around or below \$6 million, chief executive officer

Casey Chumrau said.

With barley and other revenue/interest, the budget has been slightly about \$6 million the last two years, and will be again, she added.

“We don’t really see too many market indications that those prices are going to be going up,” Chumrau said.

The commission board had a “thoughtful conversation” about whether reducing the assessment level would provide relief due to low prices and high input costs for farmers, Chumrau said.

“After talking to many growers, there wasn’t over-



The Washington Grain Commission has passed an \$8.2 million budget, down 1.7% from last year. (Washington State Department of Agriculture/Contributed)

whelming interest in that,” she said. “Also, the way our statute is written, we don’t meet the threshold required to look at something like that. I think it’s a healthy

conversation, and also to hear feedback from growers that even at this time, they feel really strongly about how their assessment dollars are being used.”

Expenses

In order to maximize interest returns on all funds, the commission uses rolling investments of operating operating funds, and has \$6.4 million allocated for general reserves, plus \$1.4 million in marketing reserves.

The commission has been “whittling down” unallocated reserves — unspent money from during the COVID-19 pandemic and additional revenue from “higher prices” during Russia’s invasion of Ukraine, Chumrau said.

The commission remains in a “very healthy position,” compared to other wheat organizations around the U.S. that have experienced multiple years of drought, she said.

“We recognize that this has been multiple years of very difficult times, and we feel very privileged to be able to work on (farmers’) behalf to maintain their markets, grow their markets, represent them overseas, to invest their dollars into research projects that hopefully will minimize increases in their input costs and maximize their yield returns and returns on those investments,” she said. “We’re going to keep working very hard to bring them the best return on these assessment dollars as possible. We always hope they will provide us feedback and follow along to see how their dollars are being used.”

The biggest increase in the budget was \$200,000 for “other administrative expenses,” bringing the total to \$214,000 from \$14,000.

The grain commission has received an “unprecedented” number of records requests recently, Chumrau said.

There is no indication of where the records requests came from.

“There is no requirement that the requesters identify themselves,” she said.

“The volume of records requested is significant and completely out of proportion compared to regular records requests received by the commission,” Chumrau continued. “On advice from counsel, in order to



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'22 CASE IH MAGNUM 280 AFS CONCT CVT, 1200 hrs,MFD, Susp Axle, PTO, #1383....\$280,000



'21 CASE IH MAXXUM 135 ACT 8, 800 hrs, MFD, 3pt, PTO, #1342.....\$135,000

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- '24 CASE IH 525Q AFS CONNECT, 1325 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO pump, Lux cab#1445\$515,000
- '23 CASE IH 540Q AFS CONNECT, 1300 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab,#1426.....\$495,000
- '23 CASE IH 500Q AFS CONNECT, 1800 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab,#1400.....\$459,000
- '23 Case IH 580Q AFS Connect, 1300 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO pump, Lux cab#145.....\$495,000
- '22 Case IH 580Q AFS Connect, 2560 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux cab#1455.....\$399,000
- '20 CASE IH 500Q, 5140 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab#1430\$250,000
- '18 Case IH 580Q, 3730 hrs, PTO, 36" Tracks, 6 Rmt, HO Pump, Lux Cab,Trailer Brake#1457.....\$295,000
- '14 CHALLENGER-MT775E, 6025 hrs., PTO, 3pt, 14" Tracks, 6 Rmts, #1313.....\$110,000

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- '23 Case IH Maxxum 135 Act 8, 1150 hrs, MFD, 3 pt, PTO, Loader & Grapple #1461.....\$140,000
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- '21 CASE IH 9250 HILLCO, 818 hrs, Harvest Command, 4wd, Chopper, Duals Lux Cab#1014.....\$500,000
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SW Washington farmers celebrate new market link

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

CHEHALIS, Wash. — A ribbon-cutting ceremony June 17 capped an eight-year campaign to build a rail terminal to connect farmers to customers and vivify agriculture in southwest Washington.

Six gleaming bins at the Port of Chehalis, halfway between Portland and Seattle, will hold crops waiting to be moved by railcars or trucks.

Until now, farmers didn't have easy access to rail lines or an off-farm place to store crops. The \$9.3 million project was conceived by farmers, pushed along by allies and funded by federal, state and county governments.

U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez, who represents the area, said she's leery of pitches for "economic development," but was taken by the farmers behind this project.

"They were honest to god stewards of the land," she said. "I can't say how grateful I am for what's happening here."

The terminal was inspired by necessity. About a decade ago, farmers lost contracts to

grow vegetables for a local processor.

Lewis County farmer Dave Fenn, described by one speaker as an "agricultural provocateur," spearheaded the effort to reach new markets by rail.

To Fenn went the honor of snipping the ribbon with outsized scissors. The bins took longer to build than he thought they would, but they look great now, he said.

Originally, farmers thought barley would be the substitute for vegetables. But their customer closed its malting plant in Vancouver.

Farmers are now primarily growing spring wheat, pinto beans, canola and peas for seeds, with a little barley.

Southwest Washington Growers Co-operative director Jake Fay said he thinks wheat and peas have the most promise as profitable crops. "Every grower here wants to grow peas," he said.

The six bins — three larger, three smaller — can hold a total of about 100,000 bushels of grain. The bins also can take crops brought to the port by rail.



Lewis County, Wash., farmer Dave Fenn stands June 17 in front newly built storage bins at the Port of Chehalis. The bins will link farmers with rail service. (Don Jenkins/Capital Press)

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By Matthew Weaver
Capital Press

Representatives from private Chinese flour mills and food manufacturers recently took a short course at the Wheat Marketing Center to learn how to use U.S. wheat in their “trendy” baking products.

The team baked Western-style breads, including clover dinner rolls, ciabatta, bagels, focaccia, toast bread and sponge cakes — in high demand at hotels and restaurants that cater to international travelers, according to U.S. Wheat Associates.

“U.S. Wheat is optimistic for Chinese purchases in the coming year,” said Dalton Henry, vice president of policy. “However, as we often see, the level of Chinese government involvement in their wheat market often complicates that outlook.”

U.S. Wheat staff will remain in contact with course participants as they return to their companies and put the knowledge they gained in the course to work, Henry said.

Wheat functionality

The end products team showcases the wide range of wheat functionality that can be purchased from the U.S. and used in a “similarly wide range” of con-



Representatives from private Chinese mills take the end product collaborative short course at the Wheat Marketing Center to learn about the versatility and functionality of U.S. wheat for their products. (U.S. Wheat Associates/Contributed)

sumer products, Henry said.

The course provides a hands-on demonstration of the use of U.S. wheats, in their individual classes and as blends with other U.S. classes to hit the “perfect functionality” for their desired products.

“Whatever end product they are working on or attribute they are aiming for, the U.S. has an option to meet their needs,” Henry said.

One key takeaway from the course is that U.S. soft wheat is “ideal” for sponge cakes, said Ralph Loos, U.S. Wheat director of multimedia and global outreach communications. Hard red spring is “excellent” for producing bagels and improving medium-protein wheat in bread production, Loos added.

U.S. Wheat will follow up the course with in-plant visits to further encourage adoption of the products, Loos said.

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Industry asks USDA to boost pulse pasta, flours in school meals

By **Matthew Weaver**
Capital Press

“Not enough,” McGreevy said.

foods will be recommended, and the barriers around those foods will be reduced greatly,” McGreevy said. and pulse flours in exciting school meals that kids will love.”

Pulse industry leaders are asking USDA to approve the use of pulse-based pasta and flours in school meals.

In a recent letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, they requested that pulse-based pastas count as a stand-alone protein and vegetable, and that pulse-based flours be recognized as “creditable” to school meal programs.

Pulses are “uniquely” recognized by dietary guidelines as both a protein and a vegetable. School meal requirements allow schools to count pulse pastas as a stand-alone vegetable serving. But when schools want to serve pulse-based pasta as a meat/meat alternate, USDA requires an additional protein source be served.

The group also wants USDA to update their list of ingredients in the Food Buying Guide.

”Currently, the guide buries bean flour in an appendix rather than listing it among standard creditable foods, and chickpea, lentil, and dry pea flours are not mentioned,” a USA Pulses press release states.

The requested changes would add “clarity,” USA Pulses CEO Tim McGreevy told Capital Press.

“This would clear up that confusion and allow school systems to use these products as a meat alternative food with protein and as a vegetable without having to have a meat or meat alternative on top of this pasta or a vegetable with the pasta,” he said. “Food operators have an opportunity to make a great choice and not add to the financial burden.”

How many pulses currently go into school meals?

Potential growth

Roughly 30 million pounds of pulses are purchased for school food-service and child nutrition programs per year, said Madison Washington, USA Pulses director of marketing.

The industry projects a cumulative increase each year if USDA adopts the recommendations.

“However, in addition to pulse pastas, if the recommendations for pulse pastas/pulse flours were adopted, this would create significant opportunities for a wide variety of pulse flour-based products such as crackers, chips, cereals, bakery, and snack options to be offered in child nutrition programs, often as healthier alternatives to traditional products,” Washington said.

More than 98% of school districts use pulses, but less than 30% use pulses or pulse products to meet special dietary needs of students, such as gluten-free, Washington said.

About 63% of school districts are reported to be “somewhat likely to very likely” to use pulses or pulse products to meet students’ special dietary needs, especially if those products are credited more clearly or flexibly in child nutrition regulations, Washington said.

Next steps

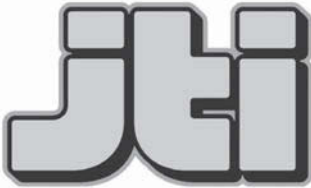
McGreevy thinks there’s a “strong possibility” of the proposal moving forward. The new dietary guidelines are interested in lowering chronic diseases, particularly in youth, he said.

New school meal rules are slated to be published in early fall, or by the end of the year.

“We’re hopeful these



The U.S. pulse industry is asking USDA to include more pulse pastas as stand-alone items in school meals. (USA Pulses/Contributed)



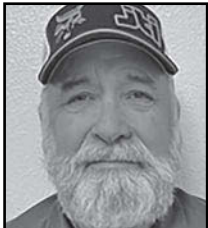
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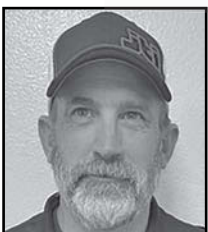
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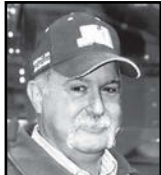
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USDA challenges scientists to thwart screwworms

By Don Jenkins
Capital Press

The USDA has enlisted scientists from across the U.S. to battle New World screwworms, awarding a total of \$105 million to support 40 research projects.

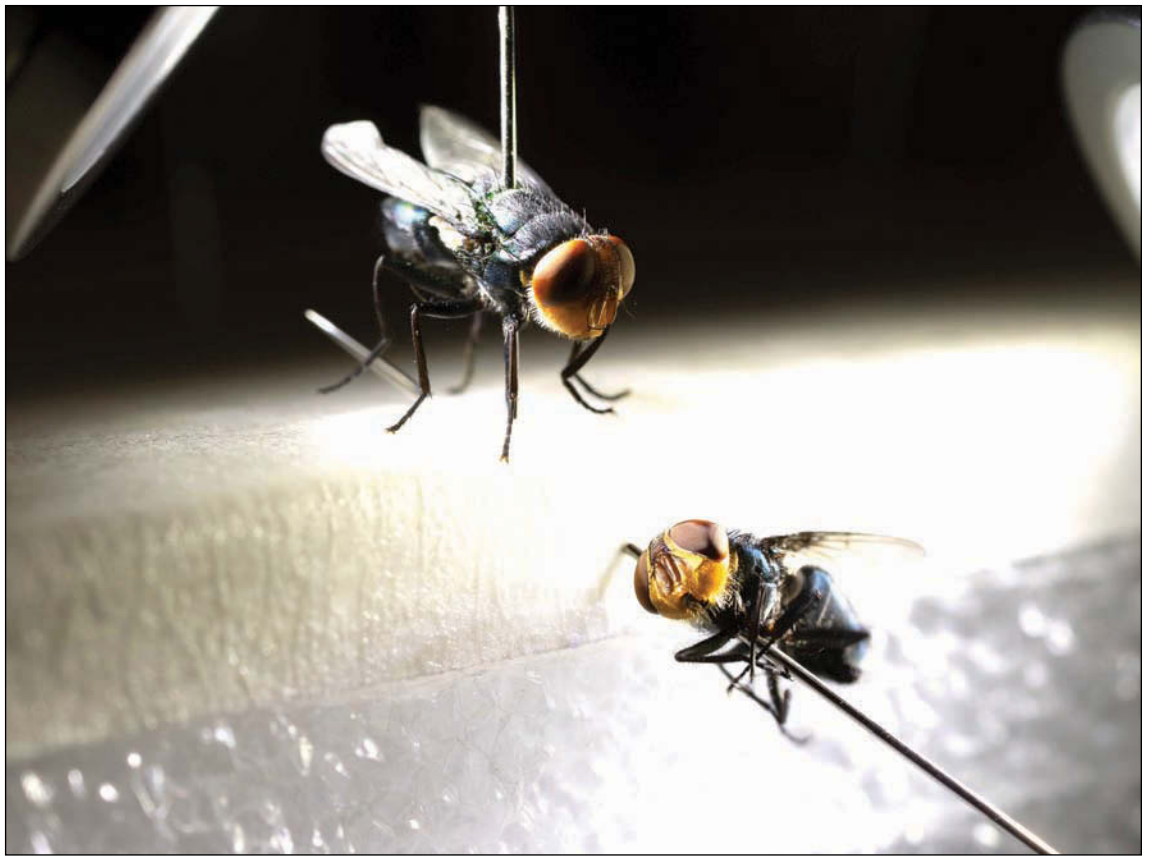
The agency said projects were selected for their potential to track, repel and eradicate the flesh-eating parasite. The projects include breeding sterile male screwworm flies with hyper-active sex drives.

"We have beaten this pest before, and by leveraging innovative solutions and advancements in technology, we will beat it again in record time," Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a statement.

The USDA issued its "New World Screwworm Challenge" in January as screwworms moved up Mexico toward the U.S. The USDA said it received 226 applications for funding.

Screwworms arrived in the U.S. in early June. The USDA has now reported 12 infected animals — eight cattle, two goats and one sheep in Texas, and one dog in New Mexico. Screwworms have been found in six Texas counties, including Tom Green County in west-central Texas, more than 300 miles from the Mexican border.

The USDA's eradication efforts seek to exploit the insect's mating habits. Female screwworms mate just once, but males



Specimens of New World screwworm flies. The USDA awarded funding to 40 research projects to battle screwworms. (USDA/Contributed)

are polygynous. The USDA hopes to turn back screwworms by blanketing border regions with sterile male flies, as it did in the 1950s, '60s and '70s.

The University of Minnesota will research increasing the sex drive of sterile male screwworm flies. Scientists have been working for

decades on manipulating the sexual instincts of insects.

The University of Pennsylvania received funding to use dogs to sniff for screwworms. Screwworm larvae fall to the ground and burrow into soil before reemerging as flies.

Other projects involve monitoring screwworms with drones and artificial intelligence, and controlling them with insect-killing fungi.

In addition to the USDA-funded projects, the Department of Energy is working with Texas A&M University to sterilize screwworm flies with electron beams, rather than radioactive Colbat-60.

The project will tighten security over radioactive material, according to the Energy Department.

Female screwworm flies lay eggs in the wounds of animals. The eggs hatch and flesh-eating maggots infect the animal. Until this month, screwworms last infected U.S. cattle in 1982.

U.S. populations of screwworms were effectively eradicated from the U.S. in 1966, according to the USDA. But screwworms that wintered in Mexico continued to strike U.S. cattle. The sporadic outbreaks peaked in 1972 with 95,626 cases, including 90,980 in Texas.



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Idaho Wheat Commission building nears finish

By Brad Carlson
Capital Press

Construction of the Idaho Wheat Commission's four-story Boise office building is slated to be completed later this summer.

The commission likely will occupy part of the multi-tenant building in August, executive director Britany Hurst Marchant said.

The Wheat Commission bought the property at 821 W. State St. more than 20 years ago and occupied a smaller, mid-1940s building on the site along with other agriculture organizations. The old building was demolished at the end of 2024.

When the commission bought the property, "it was with the intent to bring visibility to Idaho's wheat industry spe-

cifically and agriculture in general," Marchant said. The location, just west of the state Capitol building, "was a primary factor in the decision to make the investment of farmer assessment dollars in the property."

A new building on the site has been discussed for the past decade or so, "and it is thrilling to be able to see these deliberations by the commission's grower leaders evolve over the years and come to fruition now," she said.

"Since the beginning of the process, this location and the building have been carefully evaluated as an investment for Idaho's wheat-growing families now and well into the future," Marchant said.

The new building is 31,000 square feet. The project cost is estimated at \$14 million.



Idaho Wheat Commission building construction June 24, 2026, in downtown Boise. The commission expects to move into the multi-tenant building in August. (Brad Carlson/Capital Press)

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\$93,655 MSRP (-\$15,000 Riverfront Park Family Discount) Bonus Cash 2,000 for very well-qualified buyers when financed with GM Financial

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MISCELLANEOUS



SUMMERS ULTIMATE NT SUSPENDED BOOM SPRAYER, 90', 1000 Gal Tank, 5 Section control, Foam Marker, Mix Tank, Triple Nozzles..... **\$12,800**



FRONTIER GC1107 GRAIN CART, 700 Bu, PTO, Roll Tarp... **\$21,950**



'17 JD 310L EP BACKHOE LOADER, 1702 Hrs, 4WD, Cab, Air/Heat **\$45,500**



(2) 12,000 GAL NH3 TANKS, Blackmer Pump ... **\$14,500**

COMBINES



'04 JD 9760STS, 3625 Sep Hrs, Full Leveler, 4WD, Chopper, '07 JD 630R, Cart, '06 JD 630F, Cart **\$49,950**



'99 JD 9610, 5272 Sep Hrs, Full Leveler, 200 Hrs On New Hydro, Chaff Spreader, '99 JD 930R, Cart **\$19,950**

TRACTORS



'05 JD 8120, 6950 Hrs, MFWD, (4) Hyd Remotes, AutoSteer..... **\$85,000**



'14 JD 9510R, 3278 Hrs, 1 Owner, AutoSteer, Goodyear 800 LSW Duals, Weight Package Deleted..... **\$208,750**



'95 JD 8870, 3029 Original Hrs, Powershift, PTO, Autosteer, Diff Locks **\$55,000**



'12 CIH 500 QUADTRAC, 5060 Hrs, 36" Tracks, Axles Checked & Repaired..... **\$142,000**

HAY EQUIPMENT



PROAG HD4SR BALE SCOOP, Auto Align **\$22,500**



'95 MACDON 9000 WINDROWER, 3593 Hrs, '00 MacDon 15" Grass Seed Special Head..... **\$13,500**

NH 1441 DISCBINE, New Cutting System **\$11,950**



'21 MF RK842 SD-TRC PRO ROTARY RAKE, Low Acres **\$33,000**



H & S TURNER FLUFFER **\$3,500**

TILLAGE



JD 335 TANDEM DISK, 20' **\$3,000**



(12) SECTIONS HILCO 5' 5 BAR FLEX HARROW..... **\$300 EA**



DEGELMAN SM7000 HARROW, 50', 21-24" Tines, 5 Bar Flex, Hyd Tine Angle, Hyd Down Pressure..... **\$19,950**



EINBOCK AEROSTAR-CLASSIC TINE WEEDER, 40", Hyd Tine Angle..... **\$18,000**



'15 MACDON FD75, 40', Transport Kit, Parts Head Or Rebuild.. **\$7,500 OBO**



WILRICH 3400 FIELD CULTIVATOR, 45', Dyko Points, 5 Bar McFarlane Flex Harrow..... **\$8,550**



'18 GREAT PLAINS 3500 TURBO MAX, 3K Acres on New Blades & Spiders..... **\$79,950**



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

TRUCKS & TRAILERS



'01 WESTERN STAR 4964FX, Shows 339640 Mi, Series 60 @ 500 HP, 18 Spd Trans, Lockers, Lift Axle..... **\$21,000**

DRILLS



'14 GREAT PLAINS 355000HD, 50', 6" Spacing, 15K Acres, Track Scratcher, 1 Owner **\$79,950**



'15 CIH FLEX HOE 700, 60' 12" Spacing w/4" Dutch Precision Points, 3430 Cart, 2450 Liquid Cone Tank, Full Run Blockage Monitors... **\$165,000**



FLEXICOIL 8100, 30', 2340 Cart, Extra Parts **\$18,000**



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

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