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IDAHO'S DAIRY INDUSTRY CONTINUES TO GROW AS WEST COAST STAGNATES

Kyle Odegard/Capital Press

Curious dairy cows take a break from grazing to pose for the camera near Dayton, Ore. West Coast dairy production has been declining in recent years, but experts expect it to stabilize, despite business challenges.

By **KYLE ODEGARD**
Capital Press

Idaho may be best known for potatoes, but its top crop by far is dairy, with production worth nearly \$4 billion in 2024, according to the USDA.

While West Coast milk production is shrinking slightly, Idaho continues to rise.

Idaho's dairy expansion came from a business-friendly climate — the state doesn't have overtime pay for ag workers, for example — and lower producer costs, said Rick Naerebout, CEO of Idaho Dairymen's Association.

The state is a great place to grow feed and dairies farm as much forage and grain as pos-

sible to keep costs low. "Your biggest cost as a dairy producer is feed," Naerebout said.

West Coast grew for decades

Experts expected West Coast dairy production to stabilize, despite challenges such as stricter environmental regulations.

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DAIRY:

Continued from A1

“It’s a great place to farm. We just have to make sure we don’t put farms out of business,” said Steve Seppi, executive director of Washington Dairy Commission.

The West Coast dairy industry grew for decades, with California surpassing Wisconsin as the nation’s top milk producer in the mid-1990s.

About 10 years ago, oversupply and other factors led to price drops, business closures, consolidation and production declines, industry insiders said.

Diversifying into dairy in Idaho

Starting in the late 1990s and early 2000s, many dairy farmers moved to Idaho from Pacific states.

Traditional row crop farmers seeking stability and better returns also entered the industry, Naerebout said.

The number of milk cows



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Tyler Reynolds gives one of his dairy cows a scratch on the cheek. The Reynolds family grows row crops in Idaho, but he led them to diversify into dairy. “It’s become over half of our business, and if you include the byproduct beef calves off of it, it’s stronger than that,” he said.

in Idaho more than tripled in the past 30 years.

The Reynolds family were row croppers near Kuna, Idaho when they purchased a neighboring dairy

at a bank auction.

“For the big dairymen, it was way too old, way too little,” said patriarch Dave Reynolds, who initially had no intention of dairying.

He’s hoping to expand, but the creamery R 7 ships to hasn’t committed.

Scaling up creates efficiencies and the family sees other dairies getting bigger through consolidation, some with the help of out-of-state financial backing.

Expanding to survive

Anja Raudabaugh, CEO of Western United Dairies, a trade organization representing 75% of California milk production, said consolidation trends began in earnest about a decade ago following a milk price spike and subsequent crash.

Farmers who would have normally invested in their dairies began selling out due to age and business challenges, she added, in an email.

Other farms expanded to become more efficient and survive.

Seppi said consolidation hit quicker in more expensive coastal states like Washington.

He added many farms moved to areas with lower costs and less regulatory burden. Some dairies folded after continued pressure from environmental agencies.

See DAIRY, Page A4

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But his son Tyler Reynolds took dairy classes at the University of Idaho. In 2012, he convinced his father to enter the industry and diversify the farm.

Now R 7 Dairy has more than 700 cows.

“It’s become over half of our business, and if you include the byproduct beef calves off of it, it’s stronger than that,” Tyler Reynolds said.



Kyle Odegard/Capital Press

Robert Kircher stands for a portrait in front of some of his dairy herd. Kircher said Oregon environment regulations and ag overtime rules aren’t making things easier on dairy farmers

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Kyle Odegard/Capital Press

Robert Kircher walks past his dairy herd near Dayton, Ore. He and his brother sell exclusively into the organic market, but still face the same pressures as the rest of the dairy industry.

DAIRY:

Continued from A3

Worried for the future in Washington

Twenty years ago, the Skagit Valley had 80 dairy farms. Now there are 10 and that figure will likely decrease soon, said Jason Vander Kooy. He and his brother Eric Vander Kooy own Harmony Dairy near Mount Vernon, Wash., and milk 1,400 cows.

“The next generation, they see the parents struggling, so they’re not going to continue with farming,” he said.

“It’s just a constant battle,” he said. “We have to compete with states like Idaho and South Dakota, where they have much lower costs, and we all get paid the same price.”

Vander Kooy added that local farmers are locked into selling milk to Dairgold, but the cooperative has stumbled.



Courtesy Shawn Linehan Photography

Jason Vander Kooy looks over some of his cows. Vander Kooy has a son and nephews who one day could take over Harmony Dairy near Mount Vernon, Wash.

Dairgold announced this spring that it would slash milk payments for farmers by approximately 20% to 25% to finance cost overruns at a massive new processing plant under construction in Pasco, Wash.

Other options for dairy

farmers are limited, Vander Kooy said. “It’s either we go organic, go on our own or close the doors.”

He has a son and nephews who could take over the farm one day.

“We can trace back dairy farming in our family before

Christopher Columbus in Europe. I don’t want to be the last generation, so we’re going to make a go of it,” Vander Kooy said.

An Oregon dairy’s organic niche

Tami Kerr, executive director of Oregon Dairy

Farmers Association, said the state’s milk production per cow runs lower because it’s geared toward components, not volume.

Most Oregon milk becomes value-added products such as Tillamook cheese.

Brothers Robert and Stewart Kircher said they’re part of a premium niche with organic dairy.

“It seems to be growing. We’re getting asked to produce more milk,” Robert Kircher said.

The Kirchers are partners in Forest Glen Oaks and Forest Glen Jerseys, two dairies with a combined 2,200 cows near Dayton, Ore.

Their milk goes into products such as yogurt for Nancy’s Probiotic Foods and A2 milk, which many lactose intolerant people can drink, that is sold in Costco.

Despite specialty production, the Kirchers’ dairies aren’t immune from typical industry pressures.

See DAIRY, Page A5

DAIRY:

Continued from A4

“The last 10 years have been pretty tough,” Robert Kircher said. “We’re getting near to what we were seeing pricewise in 2014. But 10 years ago, all your costs were a lot lower.”

Kerr said Oregon has lost about 100 dairy farms in the past decade and only 140 remain.

The brothers said selling calves to the beef industry has created a strong revenue stream for dairy farmers.

“The impact on the beef market is huge from dairies,” Stewart Kircher said.

Beef calves bring value

With high beef prices, dairy farmers are breeding only enough heifers to replace their own stock.

See DAIRY, Page A7

Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Tyler Reynolds, Jessica Reynolds and their father Dave Reynolds operate R 7 Dairy near Kuna, Idaho. The family started off with 25 milk cows in 2012, but now they have more than 700 cows



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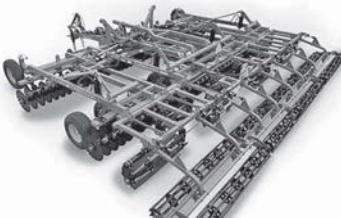
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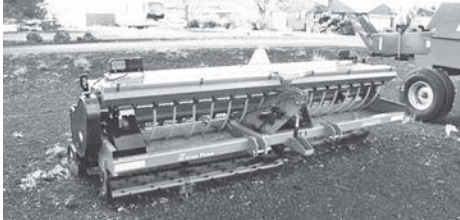
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Recipes for Dairy Month

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Photos by Courtesy Midwest Dairy

Marvelicious mac and cheese

By DANA

June is Dairy Month. Here are some recipes from Midwest Dairy.

Marvelicious mac and cheese

Ingredients

- 2½ cups fat-free milk
- 2 cups elbow macaroni uncooked, 7 ounces
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard
- 2½ cups shredded reduced-fat sharp cheddar cheese reserve ½ cup for topping

Instructions

Preheat oven to 375°F. Cook macaroni according to package directions.

Meanwhile, heat milk and butter in a medium saucepan over medium heat. Gradually whisk in flour, salt and dry mustard and simmer for 1 minute, whisking occasionally.

Remove from heat; stir in 2 cups of cheese until melted. Add drained macaroni to saucepan and toss with cheese sauce. Transfer mixture to an 8- or 9-inch square baking dish; top with ½ cup shredded cheese.

Bake uncovered until hot and bubbly,

about 20 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Notes

Add some color and boost the nutrition by sautéing some chopped red pepper and broccoli florets in the butter before adding the flour.

Turkey tetrazzini with cheddar and parmesan

Ingredients

- Non-stick cooking spray
- 12 ounces whole wheat penne pasta 1 package
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ¼ cup flour
- 3 cups low-fat milk
- 1 cup fat-free low-sodium chicken broth
- ½ cup dry white wine, such as Pinot Grigio or additional chicken broth
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups sliced white button mushrooms
- ⅓ cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 cups cooked turkey breast diced
- 1 cup peas frozen
- 1 cup reduced-fat Cheddar cheese shredded

See KITCHEN, Page A7



MidwestDairy.com

Turkey tetrazzini with cheddar and parmesan

DAIRY:
Continued from A5

More beef-on-dairy calves are being produced than heifers, and milk supply is likely to stay tight for the near future, Raudabaugh said.

The Kircher brothers expected a milk deficit in the Northwest because of farm closures, the beef-on-dairy trend and other factors.

According to CoBank, the U.S. cattle herd continues to shrink from the lowest inventory since 1951, and roughly 20% of the nation's beef supply comes from the dairy industry.

Cow characteristics dairy farmers don't want to return to their herds go to beef, and dairies have used genetics to produce better quality animals for feedlots in the past decade, experts said.

"We don't get quite the same rate of gain on a dairy-beef cross, but the quality of meat is sometimes superior to a purebred Angus," Naerebout said.

See DAIRY, Page A9



Courtesy Shawn Linehan Photography
Harmony Dairy near Mount Vernon, Wash., is one of only about 10 dairies remaining in the Skagit Valley. Twenty years ago, the area had about 80 dairy farms.

KITCHEN:

Continued from A6

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350°F. Spray a shallow two to three-quart baking dish with cooking spray; set aside. Cook pasta according to package directions. In large saucepan over medium heat, melt butter and stir in flour. Stirring constantly, cook about 2 minutes. Whisk in milk, chicken broth, wine and pepper; bring mixture to a boil. Stir in mushrooms, reduce heat and cook about 10 minutes, stirring frequently, or until mixture thickens and mushrooms are softened.

Stir Parmesan cheese, pasta, turkey and peas into milk mixture; spoon into prepared baking dish. Top with Cheddar cheese and cover loosely with foil. Bake about 45 minutes or until bubbling at edges and heated through.

- Baked Mozzarella sticks**
- Ingredients**
- cooking spray
 - 1 12-ounce package reduced-fat Mozzarella string cheese
 - 1 egg
 - 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
 - 8 tablespoons panko bread crumbs
 - ½ cup prepared marinara sauce warmed

Instructions

Position rack in upper third of oven and preheat to 350°F. Line a baking sheet with foil and spray lightly with cooking spray. Remove cheese from packaging and set aside. In a small bowl, whisk egg until foamy. In a small non-stick skillet, mix Italian seasoning with bread crumbs and place over medium-heat. Cook bread crumbs until lightly browned, about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Dip one piece of string cheese in egg until coated and then dip into toasted bread crumbs, coating completely. Dip the string cheese in then egg again, then into the bread crumbs, if desired. Place on baking sheet. Repeat with remaining string cheese and place on baking sheet 1½ inches apart. Spray string cheese lightly with cooking spray.

Bake 5 to 6 minutes or until heated through. Note: cheese may melt slightly and lose shape; simply press back into place. Serve with warmed marinara sauce for dipping.

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2014 KUBOTA RTV-X1120D, diesel, 4WD, full cab, 722hrs **\$13,900**
2010 KUBOTA ZD326S, diesel zero turn w/ 54" deck, 1357hrs **\$5,900**
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It's the Pitts: How old is old?

By LEE PITTS

The Heel flies in the face of our healthy well being. The Heel is probably the most destructive parasite attacking ranchers today.

The Common Heel is a hairy, WASP-like maggot that first originated in Washington D.C. There are two species of the Heel, the Republicanis defenses and the Democratius welfarius. Both species of the parasite are destructive, although the Eastern variety is capable of inflicting more pain

Life Cycle

The Heel works within the system and can strike at any time of the year. The blood-suckers approach everything with an open mouth, stinging the host on his legs, his pocketbook and all over his body. They feed on B.S. and baloney. The incubation stage (the campaign) of the Heel is spent outside the host. Then the leeches attach themselves to the host and go along for a four year free ride. At the end of the four year period the maggot wriggles out of everything, leaving a scar on the host.

See PITTS, Page A9

VIDEO ROYALE

MONDAY, JULY 28
Superior Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.
Video Auction - 8:00 a.m. (PDT)

TUESDAY, JULY 29
Superior Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.
Video Auction - 8:00 a.m. (PDT)

WEDNESDAY, JULY 30
Superior Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.
Video Auction - 8:00 a.m. (PDT)
27th Annual Superior
Livestock Cowboy Golf
Tournament - 5:00 p.m.

THURSDAY, JULY 31
Superior Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.
Video Auction - 8:00 a.m. (PDT)
Customer Appreciation Dinner
Featuring live music from
The Bellamy Brothers, Kevin Davis and
Waylon Thibodeaux - 6:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1
Superior Sunrise - 7:30 a.m.
Video Auction - 8:00 a.m. (PDT)
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PITTS:

Continued from A8

Eventually, each maggot feels impelled to rise to the top and depart the host, despite promises to return and help the host who fed it. The maggot emerges from the host as a fully formed Heel. If the infestation is bad enough, the parasites can make the host so poor and weak that he or she eventually dies. Because they are external parasites, the Heels are capable of staying in midair on all issues and just fly to another victim if one host

succumbs. Then the life cycle begins anew.

Diagnosis

The presence of the Common Heel can be detected by a lumpy and bruised appearance. 85% of all carcasses are damaged by the Heel. The parasite makes a lot of noise that means absolutely nothing but the sound is enough to send some hosts into shock. If this happens consult your veterinarian. A conclusive diagnosis can be made if the host runs around frantically with his or her tail in the air. He or she is trying to escape

by running for shelter. It won't work and is a hopeless cause. There is usually an offensive smell that goes with the Heel and often times the symptoms are similar to Foot in Mouth Disease. Some hosts have developed allergic reactions to the I.R.S. form of the parasite and have had to

leave the country.

Treatment

Running away won't help. Neither will spraying or dipping. About all one can do is stand in the mud for temporary relief.

Prevention

Following the terrible outbreaks of 1980 and 1984, which caused great eco-

nomic loss to the hosts, the U.S. Government decided to do something about this menace. The U.S.D.A. spent trillions of dollars and man hours in an effort to eradicate the pests. The number of spongers only multiplied more. There appears to be no way to keep them from getting under your skin.



Courtesy Shawn Linehan Photography

Harmony Dairy has about 1,400 dairy cows. Owner Jason Vander Kooy said it was a continuous struggle to stay farming in Washington. "We have to compete with states like Idaho and South Dakota, where they have much lower costs, and we all get paid the same price," he said.

DAIRY:

Continued from A7

Genetics, nutrition and technology

Advancements in genetics, nutrition and technology have played a major role in boosting milk production and quality. In the past 50 years, the number of U.S. milk cows has decreased by about 2 million but dairy production has nearly doubled, according to USDA data.

Selective breeding with artificial insemination has become the norm. "Every generation of animal that comes in is better at converting feed to milk," Naerebout said.

Feed is optimized for goals such as animal longevity and whether the final product is liquid milk or other products. Ruminant collars track how much cows are eating and other health factors. Cows often are kept in climate controlled barns to

make them comfortable and healthy, increasing yield. Just 10 years ago, many farmers were skeptical of rotary milking parlors, but those machines have increased production. Experts anticipate the dairy industry will continue to lean on science and technology to gain efficiencies and deal with a shrinking labor force.

Promising signs

Positive signs for the dairy industry include stable prices and increased consumption for most categories, experts said. California's production dipped in 2024 due to highly pathogenic avian influenza, but is on track to rebound to 2023 levels, Raudabaugh said. Milk consumption is rising because consumers are gravitating toward minimally processed foods, whole ingredients and nutritional value, insiders said. Sales of plant-based alternatives are down so far in 2025.

See DAIRY, Page A11

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



2017 RBR VENTURI 350, Cummins diesel, Allison auto, Case IH 810 Flex Air, 3 bin, 70" boom, electric tarp, Viper IV, c650/65R38 flotation tires near new. 1890 Hours...
\$147,500



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\$126,000



2014 TG8400, AIRMAX PRECISION 2, 70 foot stainless steel booms, Granular coop bins. Electric roll-tarp. Raven Viper Pro controller, Auto Steer, Air ride cab, 2,300 Hours
\$122,000



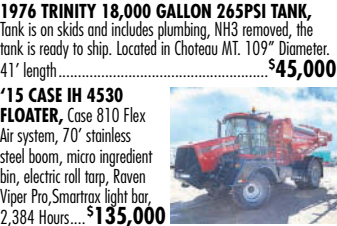
2014 TERRA GATOR 8400, Dry Floater, Air Max Precision 2 70' boom, granular bins, Viper Pro, auto steer, 3500 Hours
\$99,500



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



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'15 CASE IH 4530 FLOATER, Case 810 Flex Air system, 70' stainless steel boom, micro ingredient bin, electric roll tarp, Raven Viper Pro, Smartrax light bar, 2,384 Hours.....
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2019 TERRAGATOR TG8400C, Cummins diesel, 3446 Hours. Diesel Engine, CVT transmission. Viper 4 monitor. Airmax Precision 2 bed. 70' stainless steel booms. Micro bin with yellow and white rollers. Electric roll tarp...
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'18 CASE IH TRIDENT 5550 SPRAYER, CaseIH FPT diesel engine, hydrostatic transmission, 1400 gal. stainless steel liquid system, 120' boom, front fill, Cab camera, lightbar, Raven Viper 4 monitor, 3767 Hours....
\$122,000



'18 JOHN DEERE F4365, w/ AB485 Twin Bin Air system, 70ft booms, Gen 4 Integrated Display, Tarp, Lincoln Lube System, Premium Cab. 2724 Hours
\$199,500



'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
\$189,500



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



2014 CASE IH TITAN 3530, CNH diesel engine, Allison automatic transmission, Case Flex-Air 810 dry air flow system, 3 product, 70' boom, Raven Viper Pro monitor. 3250 Hours.....
\$86,000



2015 CASE IH 4030, CNH diesel engine, Allison automatic transmission. New Leader L4000 G4 spinner bed. Multi applicator insert. Raven Viper 4 controller, Smartrax auto steer. 2913 Hours
\$134,500



'15 TERRAGATOR 8400B, 3,222 Hrs, AGCO Power 8.4L 6-Cyl, Diesel, CVT Transmission, Viper Pro, New Leader L4000G4 MultiAppplier Dry Box.....
\$125,000



2018 CASE IH TITAN 4540, CNH diesel engine, Allison automatic. New Leader L4000G4 spinner bed. Belt over chain. Viper 4, auto steer. 2218 Hours
\$162,000



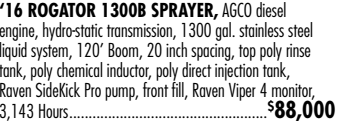
2017 RBR VENTURI 350, Cummins, diesel, Pre DEF, Allison automatic, 4x4, air ride chassis, CaseIH 810 3 bin dry air flow system, 70' boom, roll tarp, Viper 4, SmarTrax, 3060 Hours.....
\$142,500



'16 ROGATOR 1300B SPRAYER, AGCO diesel engine, hydro-static transmission, 1300 gal. stainless steel liquid system, 120' Boom, 20 inch spacing, top poly rinse tank, poly chemical inductor, poly direct injection tank, Raven SideKick Pro pump, front fill, Raven Viper 4 monitor, 3,143 Hours.....
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2019 TERRAGATOR TG8400C, 2648 Hours, Diesel Engine, CVT transmission. Viper 4 monitor, auto steer. Airmax Precision 2 bed. 70' stainless steel booms. Micro bin, Auto greaser, Electric roll tarp
\$178,000

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By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

“The greatest step the United States can take to reverse childhood chronic disease is to put whole foods produced by American farmers and ranchers at the center of healthcare,” the report continues.

DAIRY:
Continued from A9

“A decade from now, I see our industry still growing,” he added.

Dairy cows — 671,000 (up slightly)

Source: USDA
National Agricultural
Statistics Service

* Prices subject to change without notice, OAC



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MAHA:

Continued from A12

Consolidation of the food system

The “rise” of ultra-processed foods has corresponded with a “pattern of corporatization and consolidation” in the American food system, the report states, noting that only 16 cents of every dollar spent on food goes to farmers, while 84 cents are absorbed by food manufacturers, marketers and distributors.

“A small number of corporations control a large share of food production, processing, distribution and retail,” the report states. “Many of the core products of ‘Big Food’ companies are (ultra-processed foods) and nutrient-poor foods and beverages.”

Regulation of the food industry also presents challenges to smaller farmers and smaller food producers, the report states.

Key regulations, such as the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) enacted in 2011, implemented “rigorous compliance requirements for food safety that smaller farms often lack the resources to meet. This has inad-



White House Photo

Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is the chairman of the Make America Healthy Again Commission.

vertently led to increased costs and burdensome paperwork that disproportionately impact family-run operations.”

Crop protection tools

The report calls for continued studies to better understand the cumulative effects of multiple exposures to various chemicals, including crop protection tools such as pesticides, herbicides and insecticides.

“American farmers rely on these products, and actions that further regulate or restrict crop protection tools beyond

risk-based and scientific processes set forth by Congress must involve thoughtful consideration of what is necessary for adequate protection, alternatives and cost production,” the report states. “Precipitous changes in agricultural practices could have an adverse impact on American agriculture and the domestic and global food supply.”

Ag responds to MAHA report

The National Association of Wheat Growers issued a statement that the organization is “deeply concerned with the con-

tent and implications” of the report.

“Unfortunately, the report contains misleading claims that could undermine public trust in our nation’s food system,” said Pat Clements, Springfield, Ky., farmer and NAWG president. “We urge the Trump administration to ensure that the MAHA Commission’s future work is guided by sound science and peer-reviewed research. American consumers deserve facts — not fear — when it comes to how their food is grown and produced.”

NAWG noted that the Environmental Protection Agency is still the agency in charge of regulating pesticides, and while assertions made in the report do have an impact, its recommendations are not legally binding.

The American Soybean Association “strongly rebukes” the report for being “brazenly unscientific” and damaging to consumer confidence.

“Should the administration act on the report — which was drafted entirely behind closed doors — it will harm U.S. farmers, increase food costs for consumers and worsen health outcomes for all Americans,” the soybean association stated in a press release, calling on President Donald Trump, “who has long been a friend of farmers,” to step in and correct the “deeply misguided” report. Soybean farmers are

disturbed that the report contains recommendations that “are not at all grounded in science” and seem to advance the agenda of “food elitists and activist groups that have long sought to undermine U.S. agriculture,” the soybean association stated.

“These developments are even more troubling after Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. falsely assured members of Congress earlier in the week of the report’s release that ‘there is not a single word that should worry the American farmer.’”

The National Farmers Union in a press release praised the White House for bringing attention to the health and well-being of America’s children.

Policy solutions must ensure family farmers retain the tools they need to support their livelihoods, and progress must not be stymied by one-size-fits-all restrictions, the farmers union said.

“We urge the administration to include the voices of family farmers and ranchers ... and to ensure that solutions are rooted in sound science, fairness and transparency,” the farmers union stated.

CropLife America, which represents the U.S. pesticide industry, said the report recognizes the EPA’s “robust and science-based decision making,” but “unfairly casts doubt on the integrity of the federal review process.”

“This report will stir unjustified fear and confusion among American consumers who live in the country with the safest and most abundant food supply,” Alexandra Dunn, president and CEO of CropLife America, said in a press release.

Without access to EPA-approved pesticides, “significant crop losses would threaten the livelihood of family farms and lead to higher grocery prices and fewer healthy food options for families — the very opposite of what the MAHA Commission seeks to achieve,” CropLife America said in the release.

SUMMER MACHINERY SALE

2009 MF 5455, 4200 hours, MFWD, radial tires, 3 remotes, quicke loader with bale spear\$45,000

2014 Trail King 48' Hydraulic Trailer, Hydraulic Trailer, beaver tail, front ramp winch, air ride, Apitong deck, nice trailer\$55,000

1986 JD 4450, MFWD, front weights, 650/65R38 radials, recent rebuilt engine with warranty\$55,000

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Photo courtesy of Darigold
A truck delivers the first load of milk to Darigold's processing plant at the Port of Pasco in Washington.

Darigold's costly Pasco, Wash., plant starts taking milk

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Darigold's new processing plant in Pasco, Wash., plagued by cost overruns that have reduced payments to dairy farmers, has started processing milk, the Seattle-based cooperative announced June 4.

The 500,000-square-foot plant at the Port of Pasco represents an investment of more than \$1 billion, counting anticipated investments by surrounding dairy farms to supply the plant, according to Darigold.

The Pasco plant will be the largest of Darigold's dozen processing plants, capable of processing up to 8 million pounds of milk a day, according to the co-op. Darigold has been processing 9 billion pounds of milk a year, or about 24.6 million pounds a day.

When it broke ground in 2022, Darigold projected the plant would open in early 2024 and cost \$600 million. Darigold acknowledges cost overruns, but has declined to disclose a figure.

Inflation, supply-chain problems, changes in

building codes and the sheer complexity of the project contributed to cost overruns, Darigold spokesman Chris Arnold said.

"We're really pleased to have started to take milk. It hasn't always been easy," he said. "It really feels good to be turning this corner."

To finance cost overruns and pay for operating losses, Darigold has been deducting \$4 per hundred-weight, approximately 11.5 gallons, from milk payments. The deduction represents approximately a 20-25% cut for the cooperative's approximately 250 members in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana.

The \$4 deductions will continue through at least the end of June and probably longer, according to a letter the cooperative sent to members.

"Right now, there's a lot of uncertainty. We don't really know as dairy farmers what's going to happen," said Dan DeRuyter, a Yakima County, Wash., dairy farmer and co-op member.

Darigold evaluates the deduction monthly, Arnold said.

See DARIGOLD, Page A15

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KICKER: Top yielding conventional hybrid, 2020 to 2024 PNW Winter Canola Trials. Excellent winter hardiness and resilience to pod shattering. Good drought tolerance. Medium maturity.

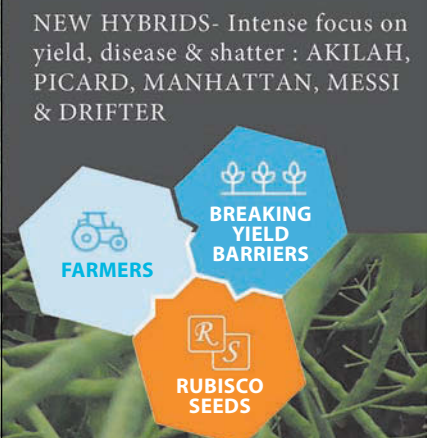
MERCEDES: Top yielding conventional hybrid, 2012 to 2024 PNW Winter Canola Trials. Vigorous fall establishment and early season cold tolerance. Responds to lower seeding rates relative to OP canola. Medium maturity.

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LBS PER ACRE									
Control Mean	4086	3743	3399	2683	3128	4711	Private trials		
Rubisco Seeds' Hybrids									
KICKER	--	4972	4701	4383	3505	5841	KICKER	4678	6667
MERCEDES	5145	4419	4359	3756	3881	5393	MERCEDES	4945	6569
AKILAH						5876	AKILAH	5686	5455
PHOENIX CL	4900	4611	4043	3398	3454	5093	DRIFTER	4856	6795

Data courtesy University of Idaho, Control Mean = Athena, Dwarf Essex, Ericka

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Energy secretary ‘passionately in support’ of lower Snake River dams

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

The U.S. Energy Secretary recently said he is “passionately in support” of the lower Snake River dams remaining in place.

“They’ve been tremendous assets for decades,” Secretary Chris Wright said. “We should not spend money to go backwards to reduce our ener-

gy-generating capacity, particularly of such high-value electricity as that from those dams.”

Rep. Dan Newhouse, R-Wash., asked Wright about the dams during a hearing May 7 before the House Appropriations Committee on the department’s budget.

Newhouse

asked if there were any plans to get away from the federal government’s efforts, particularly under the Biden administration, to remove the dams.

“I just wanted to hear your commitment to work together

with us so we can continue to derive the benefits of the hydroelectric system as well as a strong salmon population,” Newhouse said, adding, “I think we can do both. We’ve proven that efforts, if allowed, we’ve been able to make significant increases in the number of salmon.”

“Yes, I share your perspective on that,” Wright told Newhouse. “Hydroelectric dams were large infrastructure projects when America was bold, we built a number of great dams. They’ve been critical to the economic prosperity of our country. Very early suppliers of firm, reliable power.”

See **ENERGY**, Page A15



Courtesy U.S. Department of Energy
U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright said during a recent Congressional hearing that he supports the lower Snake River dams staying in place.

DARIGOLD:

Continued from A15

“No one here likes that check deduction. We certainly understand the hardship it creates for members,” he said.

Darigold said it expects to start producing powdered milk and butter in August and have a second dyer oper-

ating by the end of the year to make powdered milk.

For now the plant is separating milk into ingredients for butter and powdered milk. Final processing is being done at other Darigold plants.

About 75 people are working at the plant, Arnold said. The plant is expected to eventually employ nearly

200 workers. The plant will take milk from more than 100 farms. Powdered milk and butter will go to customers in the U.S. and some 30 countries, according to the co-op.

“Our new Pasco facility solidifies the Northwest as a global dairy leader and reflects our farmer-owners’ long-term commit-

ment to good stewardship, high-quality production, and maintaining dairy farming as a way of life,” Darigold President and CEO Allan Huttema, a Parma, Idaho, dairy farmer, said in a statement.

Darigold has no plans to close any of its other plants, Arnold said. “That hasn’t

been the plan. The plan has been to increase capacity,” he said.

About 40% of Darigold products are exported, Arnold said. Darigold will be able to move products from Pasco by railroad, highways and the Columbia River, he said.

ENERGY:

Continued from A15

Wright said he and the whole Trump administration are “fully aligned” to work with Newhouse, thinking first of American taxpayers and American citizens.

“We’re going into a period of significant demand for growth in electricity, driven by AI and resourcing of manufacturing,” he said. “We’ve got to be ready to meet those demands without harming ratepayers by driving up price to kill demand.

“What’s great about dams is when demand

for electricity goes up, you can release more water; when you’re in low demand periods, you can release less water,” Wright said. “So they provide high value electricity, it’s there when you need it and you can hold it back when you don’t need it. They’re very valuable assets.”

Wright was on the board of the Montana-based non-profit Property and Environment Research Center before he was confirmed as Energy secretary.

“So, also passionate about fish, the outdoors, animals, clean air and clean water,” he told

Newhouse. “As you said, they go together. They are not always in opposition. In fact, they’re rarely in opposition.”

Newhouse said he hopes to include the dams on a tour when Wright makes a visit to Eastern Washington.

“Absolutely, absolutely,” Wright said. “When I go out to (the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory), I’ll also visit Hanford and I’d love to go visit a dam or two with you as well.”

“Good, good, good — we’ll make that happen,” Newhouse said.



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2021 JOHN DEERE S780

COLFAX

SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER, HOURS: 639

\$472,999



Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2018	MD	FD75	MACDON FD7545' PLATFORM	N/A	\$73,999	COLFAX
2020	MD	FD140	MACDON FD14040' PLATFORM	N/A	\$93,999	MOSCOW
2022	MD	FD240	MACDON FD24040' PLATFORM	N/A	\$101,999	COLFAX
2011	CA	7088H	CASEIH, SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER, PLATFORM	3387	\$122,999	COLFAX
2019	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	1873	\$422,999	FOUR LAKES
2021	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	846	\$513,999	MOSCOW
2023	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, 2WD, DUALS, LEVEL LAND	317	\$559,999	FOUR LAKES
2021	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	483	\$588,999	MOSCOW
2022	JD	S780	SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER	432	\$644,999	MOSCOW
2023	CA	9250H	CASEIH, SM GRAIN, PRWD, DUALS, HILLCO, FD140 HEADER	408	\$724,999	COLFAX

SPRAYERS & IMPLEMENTS

2014 JOHN DEERE 1890

FOUR LAKES

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

\$174,999



Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2011	SU	ULTIMA	SPRAYER, SUMMERS ULTIMA, 1500 GALLON, 90' BOOM, GRC	N/A	\$14,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	DM	LT42	DEMCO SPRAY TRAILER, QUICK-DRAW, PUMP REMOTE START HONDA	N/A	\$120,999	COLFAX
2015	JD	1890-1910	AIR DISC DRILL, 36FT, 7.5" SPACING, 1910 CART	N/A	\$174,999	TEKOA
2022	AP	4712-SL	AGPRO 4712 AL NO-TILL DRILL	N/A	\$309,999	COLFAX
2020	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' STEEL BOOM, FLOATERS	1096	\$349,999	TEKOA
2019	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' CF BOOM, EXACTAPPLY, DUALS	1014	\$399,999	TEKOA
2023	N/A	P556-1910	AIR HOE DRILL, 56FT, 12" PAIRED SPACING, FERT, 1910 CART	N/A	\$427,999	TEKOA

MOSCOW: 208-882-0303 | COLFAX: 509-397-4377 | TEKOA: 509-284-2501

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

TRACTORS

2022 JOHN DEERE 9RX590

TEKOA

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

\$654,999



Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
1999	JD	9300	4WD, DUALS	9458	\$51,999	MOSCOW
2010	CH	MT665C	CHALLENGER MFWD, DUALS	4627	\$89,999	COLFAX
2009	JD	8345RT	TWO TRACK, 3PT/PTO, NEW IVT	8066	\$126,999	MOSCOW
2011	JD	8260R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	7073	\$141,999	FOUR LAKES
2013	JD	8335R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	6293	\$181,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	JD	6175M	MFWD, PQD, TLS, SINGLES	376	\$194,499	TEKOA
2015	JD	8370R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, DUAL FRT, TRIPLE REAR	4583	\$202,999	COLFAX
2014	JD	9510R	4WD, PST, TRIPLES	3413	\$229,999	MOSCOW
2017	CA	IH380	CASE IH ROWTRAC, 24" TRACKS, CVT, 3PT/PTO	2588	\$242,999	TEKOA
2021	FD	930	FENDT MFWD, CVT, DUALS	650	\$313,999	TEKOA
2024	JD	7R250	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES, 700M LOADER	591	\$339,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	FD	938 MT	FENDT VARIO 938 MT	1127	\$349,999	COLFAX
2023	FD	943 MT	FENDT VARIO 943 MT	1338	\$377,999	COLFAX
2022	FD	1151 MT	FENDT VARIO 1151 MT	1972	\$384,999	COLFAX
2021	JD	9570RX	FOUR TRACK, 36" TRACKS, PTO	2398	\$448,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	8R340	MFWD, IVT, ILS, DUALS	178	\$459,999	TEKOA
2023	JD	9R440	4WD, PST, HIGH FLOW, PTO, DUALS	537	\$469,999	TEKOA
2021	JD	9620RX	FOUR TRACK, WIDE GAUGE, 36" TRACKS, PTO	2008	\$518,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	6140M	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES	329	CALL	FOUR LAKES

HAY EQUIPMENT

2023 JOHN DEERE W260R

FOUR LAKES

WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, STEEL CONDITIONER, HOURS: 421

\$208,999



Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2008	NH	499	MOWER CONDITIONER 123" CUT WIDTH	NA	\$11,999	FOUR LAKES
2015	JD	830	MOWER CONDITIONER 98" CUT WIDTH	NA	\$19,999	TEKOA
2018	KU	BV4160	BALER, ROUND, TWINE/WRAP	NA	\$24,499	TEKOA
2016	MD	M155E4	WINDROWER, 16' DOUBLE AUGER HEAD	2101	\$65,999	TEKOA
2018	JD	L341	LARGE SQUARE BALER, TANDEM AXLE	N/A	\$89,999	FOUR LAKES
2017	NH	SR260	NEW HOLLAND WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, RUBBER/URETHANE	1003	\$119,999	FOUR LAKES



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APPRAISALS!

TRACTORS



CAT 85C, PTO, good tracks..\$35,000



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



2012 CAT CHALLENGER MT765D, 3762 hrs, PTO, 3 pt, 30" tracks in great shape, guide blocks have been bolted on, has complete weight package, spent about \$4,000 on hydraulic upgrades, Trimble CFX750 system. Tractor is in great shape!.....\$135,000



2013 CASE 105U TRACTOR, 890 hrs, PTO, 3 pt, nice tractor.....\$55,000



2012 CAT CHALLENGER MT765D, 4378 hrs, PTO, 3 pt, 350 hp, 75% tracks, Trimble. Good, clean tractor\$125,000



VERSATILE 855, 7224 hrs, runs good.....\$17,500

TILLAGE



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

HAY EQUIPMENT



HESSTON 8450 14' HEADER, 3400 hrs.\$20,000



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



2013 MASSEY FERGUSON 1841 BALER, small baler, excellent shape, well maintained\$22,000



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



3 BALE BIG BALE FORK\$4,000

DRILLS



GREAT PLAINS NTA3007HD AIR DRILL.....\$110,000



JD 35' 455 DRILLS, new blades, new bearings, new press wheels.....\$27,500

SPRAYERS



1000 GALLON STAINLESS STEEL SPRAYER, 40' suspended boom, Raven control system, new pump\$8,000



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



2011 APACHE AS1220, self-propelled sprayer, 1200 gal tank, 10-section 120' boom, 2634 hrs, nice machine ready to go\$65,000



CASE SRX160 105' 1600-GALLON, hooded sprayer, all electronics, heavy-duty bearings\$15,000

MISCELLANEOUS



2000 HINIKER 5600 SERIES, 15' FLAIL WINDROWER, shred & windrow stalks in one pass, full-width end delivery cross auger.....\$15,000



JD 1700 CORN PLANTER, 30" spacing, fertilizer tank, extra modifications, good shape ...\$21,000 OBO



FRONTIER 500 BUSHEL GRAIN CART, PTO driven, like brand new 30.5x32 tires, extra heavy duty hubs.....\$4,500



20' KNAPHEIDE BED, 8 1/2' wide, 52" sides, 27 ton Knapheide heavy duty hoist\$5,500

TRANSPORTATION



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4,000 GAL STAINLESS STEEL TANK TRAILER\$15,000



1981 FORD F600 550 GAL FUEL TANK W/HOSE & REEL, pneumatic pump, mechanic box, 24,417 miles, gas engine, 4x2 trans\$4,000



1979 MERRITT 45' ALUMINUM CATTLE TRAILER, also has hog panels, brakes 75%, floors 30%, 11x24.5 radials 50%\$15,000



2005 FEATHERLITE 2-HORSE WALK THRU HORSE TRAILER, tack room, dressing room, nice & clean little trailer\$8,000



1998 WILSON ROAD BRUTE 53' SPREAD AXLE TRAILER.....\$14,000



1981 GMC 7000, V8, 5x2, 28,000 miles, 18' bed, hoist, slip tank\$5,000



1983 48' WILSON ALUMINUM CATTLE TRAILER, floors 50%, brakes 50%, 11x24.5 radials 50%.....\$10,000

COMBINES



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



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



2014 CASE IH 3152 30' DRAPER HEADER, excellent shape\$14,000



JD S670 W/914 PICK-UP HEADER, serviced annually at dealership, field ready.....\$90,000



2001 MACDON 962 30' HEADER & CART, adapter fits both JD & Gleaner. Header is in good shape\$7,500



1993 JD 9600 W/30' HDR, 4930 sep hrs, new tires\$15,000

QUADTRACS

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

‘19 CASE IH 580Q, 3494 Hours, Luxury Cab, 6 Remotes, PTO, High Cap Hyd Pump, Engine Brake..... **\$399,900**

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

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

4WD 150-HP & OVER

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

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

‘97 CHALLENGER CH55, 11,390 Hours, 25” Tracks, 1000PTO **\$26,900**

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

CASEIH 9380Q, 13,000 Hour, 36” Tracks, 4 Remotes **CALL FF!**



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

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

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

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

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

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

‘88 CASE IH 9150, 23.1-24 Tires, Cummins Motor, 3PT Included but not Installed, Consigned **\$24,900**

UNDER 150-HP

‘21 CASE IH MAXXUM 125, 1585 Hours, Active Drive 4 Suspended Cab, Telescoping Mirrors, Roof LED’s, 200 Amp Alternator, Grid Heater, Rear Wheel Weights, L105 Loader, 3 rd Function, 480/65R28 Fronts, 600/65R38 Rears, Consigned **\$130,500**

‘18 CASE IH 100C, Cab, 12x12 PowerShuttle, 2 Mid-Mount Valves with Mech Joystick, 540/1000 PTO, 4WD 14.9R24 R1 Fronts, 18.4R34 R1 Rears, Self Leveling Loader, 84” Bucket..... **\$59,900**

‘14 KUBOTA M59TL, BT 1200 Backhoe, 84” Bucket, 3 Range Hydro-Shuttle, Consigned..... **\$49,500**

‘13 NH BOOMER 30, 394 Hours, ROPS, 4WD, PTO 8x8 Mechanical Shuttle Transmission, 240TL Loader with 60” Bucket, Grill Guard, Diff Lock..... **\$19,900**

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DRILLS

‘20 CASE IH 3555, 555 Bushels, High Floation-Hydraulic Control, Deluxe Auger Screen, 650/75R38 High Float Duals, 8 Run Double Shoot, Light Bar, Amber Rotating Beacon, Bulk Tank Lights, Sectional Command, Rear Ladder w/Folding Steps, Rear Tow Hitch, Tank Fill Indicator, Tillage Mounted Work Switch **\$185,000**

‘15 CASEIH FH700, 60’x12”, High Floation, 550LB Trips, 5.5” Rubber Press Wheels, Air TBT, Double Shoot **\$145,000**

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

‘12 CASE IH ADX2230, Single Shoot, 5 Run, 230 Bushel Capacity, Steel Tank, 30.5L32R Tires, Consigned **\$23,000**

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

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

‘02 FLEXI-COIL 3450, Tow Behind Air Cart, Variable Rate, Dual Fan, Consigned **\$15,900**

‘24 GP BD7600, 26’, 7.5” Spacing, Narrow Inside Scraper Kit, Heavy Wheel/Tire Bundle, Split Boxes, Hyd Drive, Single Hitch Strap, Box Light Kit, Box Divider Insert, Cab Kit, ISOBUS, Harness, Single Marker Kit, Calibration Tray, NEW!! **\$119,900**

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

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‘19 NH3 RAVEN SYSTEM CART, Custom Made NH3 Cart w/800 Gallon Bottle, Raven NH3 Components, Shut-Off & Control Valves, TBT, Consigned **\$15,000**

BALERS

‘21 NH RB450, Endless Belt, Deluxe Wrap, Net and Twine, 540 RPM w/ Cut-Out Clutch, HD Density System, Bale Ramp, Moisture Sensor, Manual Hyd Pickup Lift, 5 Bar Pickup Reel, 1.8M Pickup, Performance Pack 2 **\$39,900**

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

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

MOWERS

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

‘20 RHINO 6200, 20’, 2“-16” Cutting Height, Chain Guards Front & Rear, H29x9.0-15 Tires, Minimal Acres, Consigned.... **\$26,500**

‘15 TEBBEN TC10-500, 5’ Mower, Good Condition, Consigned... **\$1,495**

TELEHANDLERS

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

SKID STEERS

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

‘23 NH C345, EH2 Aircab, 17.7” Tracks, 84” HD Ext Bucket w/ Smart Teeth, Block Heater, HVAC Cab, Air Ride Suspension Seat, 2 Speed E-H Controls, Steel Lights, Glass Door, High Flow PKG, Heavy Duty Rear Door, Eco Disc Mulcher Attachment, Great Condition, Consigned **\$135,000**

HARROWS

ED-KA, 16’ HARROW **\$29,900**

‘15 MCFARLANE WDL-2070, 70’ Harrow Cart, 16 Bar Flex Harrow, ED-KA Wheel Kit, Cons **\$29,900**

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

PLOWS

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

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

!!!MACDON HEADERS!!!

‘17 MacDon FD75 **\$54,900**

‘13 MacDon FD75 **\$59,900**

‘15 MacDon FD75 **\$57,900**

‘15 MacDon FD75 **\$74,900**

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

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

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

GRAIN CARTS

KINZE 800, 30.51-32 Flotation Tires, Front E/Vertical Auger Tube, Good Tarp, Cons **\$20,000**

SWATHERS

‘13 MACDON-PW7,16’ Rake Up Header..... **\$19,900**

SPRAYERS/APPLICATORS

‘24 CASEIH PATRIOT 4450, Luxury Cab, 710/54R46 Tires, 135’, 7 Section, 20” Spacing, AIM Command Flex, AutoBoom Height Control, 1 Camera, AFS VectorPro, Reversing Engine Fan **\$579,900**

‘21 CASEIH PATRIOT 4440, Luxury Cab, 380/90R36 Tires, 135’, 7 Section, 20” Spacing, AIM Command Flex, Autoboom Height Control, 1 Camera, AFS Pro 700, AFS 372 Receiver, Nav II Controller. **CALL NP**

‘20 CASE IH 4440, 3047 Hrs, 135’ Boom, 1600 Gallon Tank, Raven Monitor **\$269,000**

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

‘19 CASE IH 4440, 2882 Hrs., Luxury Surveyor Cab, Active Suspension, 380/90R46 Tires, 120’ 7 Section, 20” Spacing, AFS Pro 700, AutoBoom Height Control, Combo Rate Dual Body Shut-Off, Nav II Controller, Intake Flow Meter **\$275,900**

‘17 CASE IH 4440, 3200 Hrs, 120’ Boom, 7 Section, 20” Spacing, Luxury Surveyor Cab, Active Suspension, 280/90R46 Wheels, Manual Adj Mirrors, 3” Front Fill, SS Tank, CR 11 Single Nozzle Body, Boom Flush Valve, AFS Pro700, AIM Command Flex, AutoBoom Height Control, Combo Rate Dual Body Shut-Off..... **\$195,000**

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

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

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

‘24 JD 616R, 529 Hrs, Signature Edition, 1600 Gallon Tank, 120’ Boom, Exact Apply, Command Drive, Boom Trac Pro 2, Integrated StarFire 7500 Receiver, 65 Plus Command Center Display, LSW 800/55F46 Floats, Set of Skinny’s and Fenders to Match..... **\$589,900**

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

‘12 AGPRO NH3 APPLICATOR, Custom Built, 1000 Gallon Bottle, 12” Centers, McGregor 25”x1 ¼” Coil Shanks, Rolling Basket Harrow, 11L-15 Tires, Raven Control & Shut-off Valves, Consigned..... **\$34,000**

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

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‘23 CASE IH 9250, 594 Engine Hrs, Luxury Cab w/Leather, Harvest Command Automation, PowerPlus CVT Drive w/Feedrate, Yield Monitor, Auto Cleaning Fan, In-Cab Adjust, Pro 700 Large Color Touch Screen, Distance Lights, Block Heater, Cross Auger Control **CALL FF!!!**

(2) ‘23 CASE IH 8250, Harvest Command Automation w/Camera, Luxury Cab, Pro 700 Large Color Touch Screen, Call FF for More Information and Hrs..... **\$674,000 EA**

(2) ‘23 CASE IH 8250, Luxury Cab w/Leather Seat, Harvest Command w/Camera, Power Plus CVT Drive, Yield Monitor, Auto Cleaning Fan, In-Cab Cage Vane Control Adjust, Pro700 Nav Controller, Engine Block Heater, Upper Cross Auger, Diff Lock, Grain Tank Cover, Hillco Leveler **\$591,500 EACH**

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

CASE IH 9240, 1736 Sep Hours, Hillco Hilside, 4WD, Deluxe Cab, Diff Lock, Auto Clean Fam, Fine Cut Chopper, AutoGuide Ready, Trailer Hitch, Power Fold Grain Tank Ext, Folding Unloading Auger for 50’ Header, Pivoting Unloader Spout, Yield & Moisture Logging, 650/65R38 Alliance 550 Duals, 28LR26 Alliance 390 Steering Tires, Winter Overhaul Records Available.. **\$359,900**

‘18 CASE IH 9240, 1648 Rotor Hours, Hillco Hillside, 4WD, Deluxe Cab w/Cloth, Diff Lock, Auto Clean Fan, Fine Cut Chopper, Auto Guide Ready, Trailer Hitch, Power Fold Grain Tank Ext, Folding Unloading Auger for 50’ Header, Pivoting Unloader Sprout, Yield & Moisture Logging, 540/65R38 Alliance 550 Duals, 286R26 Alliance 290 Steering Tires, Winter OH Records Available **\$349,900**

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

‘05 CASE IH 8010, 3554 Engine Hours, 4WD, Leveler, ‘12 CIH 3020 35’ Header Included, Cons **\$119,900**

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

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

‘02 GLEANER R72, Duals, 2WD, 30’ Header Included, Consigned **\$29,900**

LEVEL LAND

‘17 CASE IH 8240, 1484 Sep Hrs, Level Land, Duals, 4WD, Chopper, Guidance, Folding Auger.. **\$179,900**

‘15 CASE IH 9240, 2297 Rotor Hours, Level Land... **\$199,900**

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

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

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Apple industry stares down continued strong production and oversupply

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

After the best harvest ever in 2023-24, the U.S. apple industry experienced strong production in 2024-25.

Although it's early for predictions, most Washington regions experienced a strong bloom this spring, indicating the possibility of another hefty crop, said Michael Schadler, president of Washington Apple Commission.

The massive production season after season has led to continued oversupply, experts said.

"Market pricing has remained depressed, while at the same time, input costs and the cost of production have Continued to be very high," Schadler said.

"It's frankly not sustainable and anybody who grows apples and sees their returns knows that," he added.

Schadler hopes the industry will right-size supply and increase demand, but experts said reaching equilibrium will be a lengthy process.



Capital Press file photo

Massive production season after season has led to oversupply for the U.S. apple industry. While prices improved in 2024, they remained depressed as supply outstripped demand.

Export and imports

There's hope on the horizon as tariff tension has calmed and President Donald Trump's trade nego-

tiations could open new top producer markets.

About 25% of the domestic apple crop is exported — that's been closer to 30% for Washington, the nation's

After hitting a low point in 2022-23, U.S. apple exports grew 47% to roughly 47 million bushels during the past year. That's

still 13% below the record from 2014-15, said Christopher Gerlach, USApple's vice president of insights and analytics.

See OVERSUPPLY, Page B4

TRACTORS



- VERSATILE 1150, power shift, 5,900 hrs., diff. locks front & rear, KTA-1150, 525-hp., triples, 4 remotes...\$66,000
- JD 8640, 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
- JD 8630, 8100-hours, 3-remotes, PTO, 8-excellent 24.5x32 matching tires, 50 Series engine\$15,500
- CASE 4890, 4-remotes, 4594-original hrs, 30.5LRx32 radials inside, 24.5x32 bias outside\$17,500
- IH 766, diesel, 85-hp, PTO, 3-point, cab and loader MAKE OFFER

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- 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

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- NH 1046, self-propelled bale wagon, 6-cyl. gas\$3,500



- NH 595, 3x4 baler, Excellent!\$17,700
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- BALE WAGON PARTS, auto & stick transmissions, rear ends, 460-V8, auto. transmission CALL
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- ALLEN 8827, rake\$5,500
- 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

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- 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

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- 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

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- IH 6200 DRILL, 14'x6" spacing, with dry fert. /seed box combo, packer wheels, single hydraulic\$5,500
- 3-JD 9350, 8'x7" hoe drills, factory movers, packer wheels, grass seed/fertilizer\$6,500
- KRAUSE 5436, folding drill, minimum till, with liquid tank applications\$27,700

COMBINES & PARTS

- JD 6620 SIDEHILL, 1690 hrs., 220 header, pickup reel... ..\$17,500
- '76 JD 6602, with 20' header\$2,500

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OVERSUPPLY:

Continued from B3

“We need to keep our foot on the gas,” Gerlach added, in an online presentation May 15. The U.S. has a \$300 million positive trade balance on apples, with juice from Turkey and China accounting for most imports. “That is absolutely something we want to protect and expand,” Gerlach said. With U.S. tariffs on imports, prices will increase for growers of domestic processing apples and American manufacturers of apple juice concentrate, he said.

Washington processing apple prices have surged 320% in the past six months. With tariff levels of 30% on China, the country will remain a cheap and ample source of apple juice. **Acreage already declining** Gerlach said national apple acreage has declined about 10% or nearly 33,000 acres over the past decade. “People are seeing the writing on the wall,” he said, adding that farmers were mainly removing processing blocks that had been underperforming. Fresh apples represent

about 70% of national production but 90% of value. Washington’s apple acreage, however, increased 8% over the past decade and yield improved 17%. California acreage dropped 27% since 2015 and Oregon apple orchard acres have dipped 8%. **Storage stats** The nation also is better at storing apples, with some fruit reaching consumers 18 months after harvest. Cosmic Crisp, the Washington State University developed apple, had 8.2 million bushels in storage in May, up 35% from a year ago, leading

to discounted prices, Gerlach said. Overall, the U.S. had 72 million apples in storage on May 1, down 5% from the previous year but 16% above the five-year average. **Best apples ever** Jon DeVaney, president of Washington State Tree Fruit Association, said there’s a lot of weather and grower choices before harvest. “There’s a potential for another big crop. But that’s potential,” he said. Farmers may consider the cost of labor, which consumes about 99% of gross returns, and take actions to trim their

crop. “Maybe you’re going to be instructing your crew to pick fruit of the premium sizes and great color,” DeVaney said. “We’ve had great weather to start the year, but that doesn’t mean we’re locked into all that fruit hitting the market,” he said. Schadler said the apple industry is going through a reckoning right now, but remains important economically and has a bright future with new and exciting varieties for consumers, including Cosmic Crisp. “We’re growing the best apples we’ve ever grown,” he added.

CHERRIES:

Continued from B3

The price per ton dropped \$70 to \$1,580. Bearing acreage increased by 500 to 11,500 and the yield rose to 4.01 tons per acre, up 14%. **California** California’s utilized harvest declined 7% to 94,000 tons.

The price per ton rose 11% to \$3,140, sending production value to \$296 million, up 4%. Bearing acreage remained unchanged at 38,000 and yield per acre was 2.6 tons, down 8%. **U.S.** National utilized production of 361,000 tons was up 4.5%. Bearing sweet cherry

trees covered nearly 96,000 acres, an increase of 9%. Yield decreased 5% to 3.84 tons per acre. The average price per ton in 2024 was \$2,270, an increase of \$420. About 79% of the utilized crop was destined for the fresh market, which brings much better prices than processed fruit.

BY THE NUMBERS

Apple stats, 2024 compared to previous year

NATIONAL (TOP SEVEN STATES)

Production — 10.5 billion pounds, down 5.5%
Value — \$2.9 billion, up 1.6%
Acreage — 299,500, down slightly
Price — 27.6 cents per pound, up 7.4%

WASHINGTON

Production — 7.5 billion pounds, down 2%
Value — \$1.95 billion, up 7%
Acreage — 174,000, unchanged
Price — 27.2 cents per pound, up 10%

CALIFORNIA

Production — 157 million pounds, down 34.5%
Value — \$60 million, down 14%
Acreage — 9,800, down 4%
Price — 38.2 cents per pound, up 30%

OREGON

Production — 120 million pounds, down 24%
Value — \$28 million, down 24%
Acreage — 4,600, down 2%
Price — 23.6 cents per pound, down 1%

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Fruit and Nuts 2024 Summary, released May 6

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Location: 3806 N 3600 E, Kimberly
Schedule: Registration 8-9 a.m., Tour 9 a.m.-noon, Sponsored lunch (No RSVP required)
Topics: Palmer amaranth and waterhemp updates, weed control in crops, graduate research updates, alfalfa and corn silage, potato production and storage, insect studies
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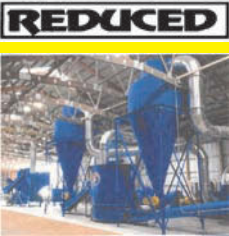


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Idaho Power cloud seeding activity lower last winter than average

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

Idaho Power’s 2024-25 cloud-seeding season was quieter than usual as conditions limited opportunities.

All measures tracked were below the 10-year average, according to information that Shaun Parkinson, the company’s water resources leader, presented at a meeting of the Idaho Water Resource Board’s cloud seeding committee.

Total silver iodide used was 34.9% below average in the Idaho central mountains and 27% below average in the Upper Snake River region.

Ground generator hours were below average by 21.7% in the central mountains and by 24.1 % in the Upper Snake.

Aircraft hours were below average by 43.5% in the central mountains and by 23% in the Upper Snake. Flare usage was below average in both regions.

“The season was slow overall for cloud seeding, with limited storm opportunities through much of the season,” Parkinson told Capital Press. “Many of the storms that came through were either too warm to seed or they were already naturally efficient at generating snow.”

Idaho Power seeds clouds by introducing additional ice nuclei — silver iodide — into passing winter storms to increase precipitation. The company uses remote ground generators at high elevation sites or airplanes that burn special flares within clouds to release iodide into storms.

Tiny water particles in the clouds freeze on contact with the iodide and eventually grow before falling as snow. Conditions may be optimal if a storm has abundant vapor or small liquid droplets and appropriate temperatures, according to the company.

Cloud seeding depends on factors including the



Courtesy Idaho Power
Ground generation equipment used for cloud seeding.

presence of super-cooled liquid water that is below 32 degrees Fahrenheit but not frozen, appropriate temperatures for seeding to work efficiently, and winds to mix and carry the seeding agent into the storm, Parkinson said.

“Each storm is unique with regard to these conditions,” he said. By using a combination of ground equipment, aircraft burn-in-place and aircraft-ejectable flares, “our meteorologists can target the location of the storm where the temperatures are most conducive to effective cloud seeding.”

Storms wherein temperatures are best near the ground are seeded with ground-based equipment. Storms wherein temperatures are best at higher elevations are seeded with aircraft.

Variation of seeding time — or release of silver iodide — from average for any seeding type “tells us that the seeding conditions were more or less favorable than average,” Parkinson said. “Less than normal can be a result of limited storms or storms that were naturally efficient.”

The 2024 and 2025 winters offered seeding opportunities below the 2015-25 average, he said. Water year 2025 had slightly more aircraft hours than 2024, but less generator runtime and total sil-

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Idaho Power program details can be found at <https://www.idahopower.com/energy-environment/energy/energy-sources/hydroelectric/cloud-seeding/>

Idaho Water Resource Board program details can be found at <https://idwr.idaho.gov/iwrb/programs/cloud-seeding-program/>

ver iodide released. Most seeding in the 2025 water year occurred from January through March.

“Less ground seeding in the Upper Snake occurred due to unfavorable winds, meaning winds were too light or not in the direction to carry silver iodide into the target area,” Parkinson said. The seeding season “ended on a strong note in March with near-to above-normal seeding opportunities.”

He compared dry water year 2021 and the unusually wet 2017 to the 2015-25 average.

In 2021, ground generator run times were 127% of average, and silver iodide released was 125%. Aircraft hours were around normal at 101%.

In 2017, generator run times were 77% of average and silver iodide released was 88%, but aircraft hours were 126%.

Below-normal seeding in the heavy winter of 2016-2017 “was due to suspension criteria being met as early as December,” Parkinson said.

The typical cloud seeding season runs from Nov. 1 to April 30, according to Idaho Power.

The Idaho Water Resource Board since 2014 has participated in a collaborative cloud seeding program with Idaho Power and water users in the Boise, Wood and Upper Snake river basins. Idaho Power conducts program operations, and IWRB and local water users provide funding support.

Cloud seeding generates about a 10% annual average increase in snow-pack across all basins of operation, according to the board.

Family resolves sprawling litigation over Oregon cranberry farm

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

A family has resolved a sprawling dispute among cousins over an Oregon cranberry farm that in recent years sparked six lawsuits, two appeals and two bankruptcy filings.

A global settlement has ended all litigation among family members in a disagreement over the management of Bussman Cranberries in Coos County.

Ownership of the cranberry growing and processing operation was split among three brothers, George, James, and Peter



Capital Press file photo

Two factions have settled a sprawling lawsuit involving the management of their family's Coos County cranberry growing and processing operation.

Bussman, and their four abeth Potter, Jennifer Isen- cousins: Sarah Strain, Eliz- hart and Mary Kistner, who

are sisters.

The four sisters accused the Bussman brothers of mismanaging the joint 34-acre family operation to benefit their separate cranberry businesses.

Though the parties agreed to dismiss a 2017 lawsuit, the sisters filed another complaint three years later, claiming the Bussman brothers sold fruit to the joint family company at artificially inflated prices, used joint resources to buy property for themselves and engaged in “sham transactions” to extract money from the joint company, among

other allegations.

In 2021, a jury rendered a \$2.5 million verdict against the Bussman brothers after determining they’d breached contractual obligations and violated an operating agreement with their cousins, among other findings.

That did not end the matter, however, as the sisters filed another lawsuit against one of the brothers, George Bussman, alleging he’d tried to avoid paying his share of the judgment by transferring assets to companies owned solely by his wife.

See CRANBERRY, Page B14

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Dysfunction in the market for new trucks has convinced Oregon environmental regulators to delay enforcement of the state’s electric truck sales mandate for two years.

Oregon delays electric truck mandate

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

Dysfunction in the market for new trucks has convinced Oregon environmental regulators to delay enforcement of the state’s electric truck sales mandate for two years.

Despite “compliance flexibilities” to ease adoption of the “advanced clean truck” regulation, the state’s Department of Environmental Quality said that “new truck market dynamics in Oregon are not functioning properly” — much as critics of the mandate have been forecasting.

“Some manufacturers are limiting new internal combustion engine truck sales as a means to ensure compliance with ACT sales requirements, thereby reducing overall new truck availability to a wide range of users,” the agency said.

While critics have long been warning DEQ about the adverse impacts of the mandate, the fulfillment of those predictions has prompted the agency to take action, said Rep. Shelly Boshart-Davis, R-Albany, who’s been advocating for the delay.

“This rule affected everyone, from the one-man shop to the big business like Daimler,” she said, referring to a truck manufacturer whose North American operations are based in Portland, Ore.

The fundamental problem is that demand for

electric trucks simply isn’t keeping with the rate of sales required of manufacturers, said Boshart Davis, whose family runs a farming and trucking operation.

“They’re sitting on all this EV inventory nobody wants,” she said, referring to electric vehicles.

Under the “advanced clean trucks” rule, which is meant to reduce the state’s carbon emissions, 40-75% of the new trucks sold in Oregon will have to be electric by 2035, depending on the vehicle class.

Though the percentage of electric vehicle sales will rise gradually over the next decade, and manufacturers will be able to buy credits to comply with the requirements, opponents claimed the mandate would restrict the number of diesel trucks available.

Critics argued manufacturers would likely constrain sales of diesel trucks to ensure they don’t outpace sales of electric trucks beyond the threshold allowed under the rule.

In other words, if electric truck sales remain low, that will necessarily limit how many diesel trucks are available for sale.

According to DEQ, that’s exactly what’s been happening since the mandate went into effect at the beginning of this year.

“In particular, the preferred compliance strategy of manufacturers not delivering internal combustion

engine trucks to Oregon’s market to avoid accruing any deficits is failing to meet the needs of dealers and fleets,” according to DEQ.

In addition to the “current lack of available vehicles,” the decision not to enforce the regulation in 2025 and 2026 was also motivated by “federal activities that threaten incentives and investments” in electric vehicles, according to DEQ.

Not only has the Trump administration cast doubt on the future of programs meant to spur sales of electric vehicles and construction of charging stations, but Congress may eliminate the legal foundation for the regulation, the agency said.

State governments are currently allowed to follow either federal emissions standards or those set by California, which developed the electric truck sales mandate.

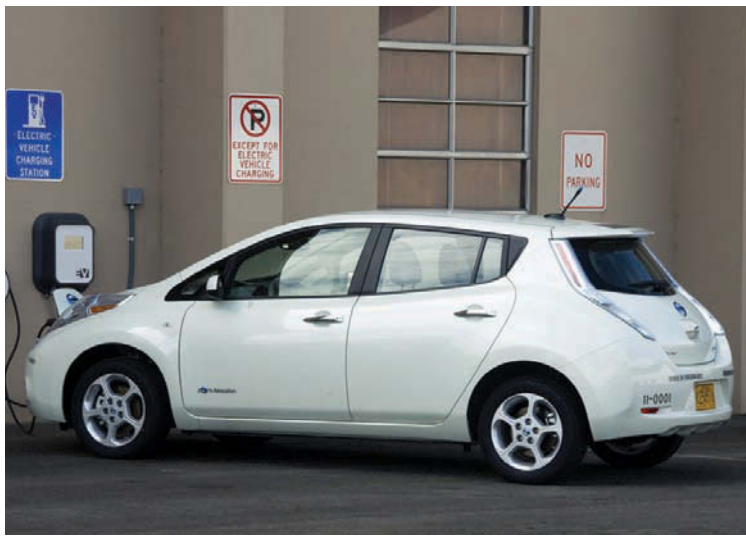
However, Congress may withdraw permission for California to set the electric truck mandate, which would effectively block Oregon from enforcing the regulation as well.

“Collectively, these activities at the federal level are creating significant uncertainty,” according to DEQ.

As much as the state government would like to point at federal decisions, political pressure within Oregon was likely a bigger factor in DEQ’s decision, said Boshart Davis.

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Washington, Oregon and 15 other states adopt all or some of California's vehicle-emission rules. Washington, in particular, strictly adheres to rules set by the California Air Resources



An electric vehicle is being charged. Congress has intervened to stop California, Washington and other blue states from mandating increasing sales of zero-emission vehicles.

California Attorney General Rob Bonta blamed President Donald Trump for Congress' action. California will

“If it’s the next suit that we bring, it will be our 23rd lawsuit against the Trump administration,” Bonta said at a press conference, stand-

Red states oppose allowing California to use its special status to ban gas- and diesel-powered vehicles to fight

“We are reclaiming our congressional authority under the Congressional Review Act,” she said.



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Dairy-anchored Idaho CAFE project advances

Capital Press staff

Construction of maternity and commodity barns as well as classroom space with an advanced facility for distance learning is under way at the dairy-anchored Idaho Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment near Rupert.

The University of Idaho-led project will include the nation's largest research dairy, according to a UI news release. Idaho CAFE is scheduled to begin milking operations by early 2026, starting with about 400 cows and gradually increasing to about 2,000 to reflect the size of an average dairy herd in the state.

First-phase construction included major earth work and a milking barn with modern rotary parlor.

The parlor includes automation technology that allows for faster, more efficient milking and requires fewer employees, according to UI. Robots will spray cows' teats with sanitizer prior to each milking, a task typically done manually by dairy workers, according to the release. A separate robotic



Bill Schaefer photo courtesy UI

Rachel Bickerton, University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences director of government and external relationships, left, describes the CAFE milking parlor to a tour group including members of the state Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council.

system will sanitize teats again following milking. The milking units will sanitized and flushed automatically after each cow is milked.

An automated crowd gate further increases the milking facility's labor efficiency. A bar will lower behind cows within the holding pen, slowly moving forward and guiding them through the parlor entrance.

Water used to chill milk quickly is captured in an automated self-flushing system and reused to clean the floor of the milk-

ing parlor, according to the university. Afterward, the water will irrigate crops on an adjacent soil-and-water demonstration farm.

Ear tags will link cows to computerized records detailing individual characteristics, health records, lactation history, age, pregnancy status and other information, according to UI. Specialized collars will track cows' movements and how many steps the cows take — data that can help staff assess health and determine which cows may be in heat.

A sensor inside the



Bill Schaefer photo courtesy UI

Leslie Garner, city of Rupert CFO and treasurer, Rachel Bickerton, director of government and external relationships for University of Idaho College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and Kelly Anthon, R-Rupert, Idaho Senate president pro tempore pose, for a photograph near the CAFE rotary milking parlor.

rumen of each cow will alert dairy personnel when animals become sick well before they are symptomatic.

In winter, a concrete pad near the milking parlor's front entrance will use radiant heating to prevent spilled milk from freezing and posing a safety hazard.

Tour groups will observe dairy operations through a window from atop a catwalk.

Idaho's dairy industry worked closely with the university in designing CAFE — which will

provide for research into challenges affecting Idaho dairies at an industry scale, making findings more applicable to their operations, according to the release.

"This is the first time you can do research on this kind of a scale in the U.S. ever," said Kelly Anthon, Idaho Senate president pro tempore and Rupert city administrator, following an early May tour. The tour included lawmakers, local officials and members of the state Permanent Building Fund Advisory Council.

"We need to keep supporting this facility," Anthon said. "It's going to mean a lot for Idaho and the Idaho economy."

The state is the third largest producer of dairy products in the U.S.

CAFE has been made possible by a partnership involving UI, industry and government, according to the university. The legislature in 2017 appropriated \$10 million from the Permanent Building Fund.

The state land board in 2023 authorized \$23.25 million from UI's sale of endowment land in Caldwell no longer used for experimental farming. The 2025 legislature appropriated \$250,000 toward building maintenance at the milking parlor.

McAlvain Construction of Boise is the general contractor on the project. Keller Associates Inc. completed project engineering.

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'The kids are the best part of the job': Longtime Washington FFA, ag teacher Cool retiring

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

QUINCY, Wash. — Longtime Washington agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Rod Cool will retire at the end of the school year. “It’s time,” Cool, 61, told the Capital Press. “This is my 38th year in a classroom, and I just felt it was the right time for me.”

He plans to remain involved in judging at fairs and has applied to be on the Washington State Fair Commission.

Cool has operated a custom meat shop off and on. It burned in a 2015 fire, and he has not operated it since then.

“I used to shoe horses; that’s too hard of work for an old man, so I can’t go back to shoeing horses, but I think I’ll cut a little meat, just small — I’m not



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press file

Rod Cool pauses in front of a wall full of FFA accolades Oct. 19 in his Quincy High School classroom during a food science class in October 2022. Cool will retire at the end of the school year after 38 years of teaching. “The kids are the best part of the job,” Cool says.

going to go at it full time,” he said. “It’d be something to cut up some game and stuff like that during hunting season.”

‘Steady need for ag teachers’

“There are just not enough ag teachers out

there,” Cool said.

During roll call at a state ag teacher conference several years ago, Cool asked for a show of hands. About 70% of ag teachers in the state have been teaching for zero to five years, he said.

“And then there’s not



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press file

Rod Cool, a longtime Washington agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, stands outside Quincy High School in October 2022. Cool will retire after 38 years at the end of the school year. “Be the kind of ag teacher that you would want your own kids to have,” he advises future ag teachers. “It was how I approached every day in my career.”

much in the middle, and then a bunch of guys in that 30 years and up range that are retiring soon,” he said. “There’s a steady need for ag teachers all across the country.”

For example, Montana has 50 job openings and 77 chapters, he said. Texas has more than 200 job openings, and a “serious need for ag teachers.”

See RETIRING, Page B14



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University of Idaho students kick off key rangeland evaluation

By **BRAD CARLSON**
Capital Press

KUNA, Idaho — Atop a rangeland butte, student Will Amonette sets up a transect how and where it is needed for precise evaluation of what lies on and just below the ground.

“I’m learning a lot. It’s my second day on the job,” the University of Idaho undergraduate said.

“It’s really good experience,” range technician and UI undergraduate Drake Rasgorshek said. “I’m learning something at the field level beneficial for all of us.”

Amonette and Rasgorshek were among UI students training at Kuna Butte May 20-21 to assess rangeland as part of the National Resources Inventory, led by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service and initially mandated by the Rural Development Act of 1972.

NRCS and its partners collect and produce scientific



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

University of Idaho student Kelly Webr with a line point intercept.

ally credible information port of protection and restoration efforts.



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

University of Idaho student Will Amonette sets a transect.

On the first day, the students learned about soils and vegetation. On the second day, they learned how to set transects and carry out vegetation protocols and calibration.

In the rangeland survey part of the resources inventory, a fixed number of locations can be monitored over time. Some are revisited annually and others are visited on a rotational basis over several years, said Mindi Rambo, state public affairs specialist with NRCS in Idaho.

Kuna Butte is a good site for the training partly because it has three soil types and three vegetation types, said Dan Lauritzen, a UI instructor for the project. Desirable perennials and shrubs are on the landscape, as are invasive annual grasses that have a degrading effect.

Working in teams, the students set transects of 150 feet — 75 feet on either side of a center point. They set a thin metal pin every three feet along the transect and record anything that intersects the pin, such as a soil or vegetation component.

Data are fed into national models, said Eric Winford, UI rangeland ecology and management researcher and associate director of the university’s Rangeland Center. The work targets “precise on-the-ground information to tell us what the satellite is seeing. The data help us

compare rangeland conditions over time.”

The student-gathered data will be calibrated and used, he said. Because most of the students also trained last year and were familiar with the process and the site’s soils and plants, the training and calibration went quickly.

The survey runs smoothly thanks to the partnership with UI, said Misty Beals, NRCS Idaho state resource conservationist. For example, the agency gathers landowner contact information and the UI group gets access permissions.

The annual training went well, and “everyone was excited to get out and do the survey,” Rambo said. The longstanding partnership with the university “makes it possible to ensure the consistency and quality of the data we collect.”

“It’s such a critical thing that happens in the background to inform good policymaking,” she said.

The students will spend the summer monitoring various sites. “There are 400 potential points they could visit or monitor,” Winford said. “At each point they will stretch out the tapes” crossed at a midpoint.

As for current rangeland conditions, “one thing we talk about is long-term average, but we don’t ever see that average” in a given year, he said. “We see extremes.”



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Oregon farm labor standards board proposal scrapped for now

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**
Capital Press

Oregon lawmakers will not move forward this year with a proposed agricultural labor standards board that would set wages and workplace conditions for farmworkers.

Instead, the House Rules Committee is considering an amended version of the proposal, which would require a study of farmworker experiences and the adequacy of existing labor protections.

Despite making the “hard decision” not to pursue the initial concept, the bill’s supporters believe it’s worthwhile to fill in information gaps about agricultural labor in the state, said Ira Cuello-Martinez, policy and advocacy director for PCUN, a nonprofit representing farmworkers.

“We believe there are a lot of misconceptions about farmworkers and what they experience in the workplace,” he said during a recent legislative hearing.

However, the Oregon Farm Bureau and other critics remain opposed to House Bill 2548 despite the change, fearing the study would generate “skewed data” aimed at bolstering the agricultural labor standards board in the 2027 legislative session.

“We see this report for exactly what it is: An attempt to set the stage to bring the original proposal back in two years,” said Lesley Tamura, board chairwoman of the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers nonprofit.

Proponents of the amended version of HB 2548 argue the study would be helpful because farmworkers are often immigrants and people of color who don’t speak English, in addition to being excluded from certain federal and state labor regulations.

Those factors raise the possibility that farmworkers are experiencing retaliation, sexual harassment, pesticide exposure or other workplace hardships but not seeking recourse under existing laws, according to supporters.

“We recognize not all employers are doing bad things, but bad things are regularly happening,” said Cuello-Martinez.

Statistics about farmworkers are often inconsistent across various federal agencies and fail to provide context for why injuries or other problems may occur, according to proponents.

Farmworkers are frequently employed by labor contractors rather than directly by growers, which

can complicate the enforcement of labor protections, supporters say.

“We need to understand these realities directly from the workers who are suffering them,” said Kate Suisman, attorney for the Northwest Workers Justice Project nonprofit.

Critics of the bill’s amended version say they’re not opposed to more research in theory but believe this particular study is purposely meant to cast

farmers in a negative light.

“This study seems designed for a pre-determined outcome,” with the goal of later reprising the agricultural labor standards board proposal, said Helle Ruddenklau, a farmer near Amity, Ore.

Specifically, critics say they’re troubled that Oregon State University — the state’s major agricultural research institution — would not be involved in the study, which would

instead be performed at Portland State University.

As described in the bill, the study would give short shrift to the financial conditions and perspectives of farmers without explaining how the agricultural labor standards board would affect the industry, according to critics.

“The economic reality is dire but there is no way to capture that in the report,” said Jenny Dresler, lobbyist for the Oregon Farm Bureau.



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CRANBERRY:

Continued from B3

Another one of the brothers, James Bussman, twice filed for Chapter 12 bankruptcy protection, which shields family farmers from

creditors foreclosing on their assets.

Meanwhile, the Bussman brothers filed two appeals in the original case — against the main judgment and a supplemental judgement pertaining to attorney fees — and both sets of coun-

ins filed three complaints against attorneys involved in the litigation.

Under the terms of the settlement deal, which resolves all pending litigation, the sisters are entitled to \$3 million in payments from the Bussman brothers and asso-

ciated parties, part of which will be paid in the form of a promissory note that's secured with real estate and other property.

The Bussman brothers will also cease being members of the joint family company and will adjust bound-

ary lines so their cranberry bogs are no longer part of the joint operation's property. They will also provide the joint company with maintenance access and water rights easements to a reservoir in which they own interests, among other terms.

RETIRING:

Continued from B11

"It's that way all over the country; there just aren't enough teacher training programs and not enough kids graduating (who are) traditionally trained as ag teachers,"

ers can begin via industry, but "sometimes you lose a little bit in transition, people who don't know enough about the FFA part of it," Cool said. "Their learning curve's pretty steep, where a traditionally-trained university ag teacher gets a little dab of all of that."

During a 2022 pro-

file, Cool called himself "kind of a dinosaur" as an agriculture teacher with a strong farming background.

He grew up on a ranch with cows, hay and horses as an outfitter business. He also worked in orchards and wheat and cut meat through college at his father's custom

meat shop.

"There's just not a lot of farm kids any more," he said. "To get them to leave the farm and be an ag teacher any more just isn't an option for a lot of them. If they want to keep the farm in the family, they've got to stay on the farm."

Advice to future teachers

"The kids are the best part of the job," Cool said. "The time you get to spend with them in the truck or the Suburban when you're going

on judging trips and field trips, the relationships you build are the most important thing as an ag teacher; it's the rewarding part of it."

He noted that he still hears from students from his first year teaching in Metaline Falls, back in 1987.

"You build those life-long relationships through this job," he said. "That's the best part of it." "Be the kind of ag teacher that you would want your own kids to have," he said. "It was how I approached every day in my career."

TRUCK:

Continued from B8

The regulation has resulted in lost sales and jobs consistently with expectations, leading to bipartisan support for legislation that would've forced the agency to delay enforcement, she said.

Several Democrats signed on to sponsor a bill introduced by Boshart Davis that would've postponed the mandate, which died in committee earlier this year.

Though that proposal did not move forward, the Joint Transportation Committee was soon scheduled to vote on an amendment to another bill that would've had the same effect.

The timing of DEQ's announcement was likely no coincidence, Boshart Davis said.

The enforcement delay will provide trucking companies with at least a couple years of breathing room — or longer, depending on Congressional action — during which electric trucks may progress or other technology will offer an alternative, she said.

For now, though, electric trucks simply don't have enough range or

charging stations to be practical, Boshart Davis said. For example, the containers of straw her family ships overseas are too heavy for electric trucks to handle.

"EVs simply don't work in most trucking applications," she said.

The DEQ's decision was criticized by several groups advocating for reduced carbon emissions, including the Oregon Environmental Council, Climate Solutions and the Oregon League of Conservation Voters, who called it "a major setback to clean air and climate progress."

The conservation groups said the agency was "bowing to oil and gas interests and truck manufacturers," who were trying to more broadly delay clean truck regulations as part of a "nationally orchestrated multi-state campaign."

Postponing the regulation's enforcement will result in \$93 million in "avoidable healthcare costs" and \$30 billion in "lost energy savings" while making Oregon a "dumping ground for the most polluting diesel trucks" that can no longer be sold in California or Washington, the groups said.



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Kansas State leader named dean of Washington State's ag college

Capital Press

A globally recognized researcher on precision agriculture has been named the dean of Washington State University's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences.

Raj Khosla's selection was announced May 14 and he'll start his new job Sept. 1.

He'll oversee a college with 3,000 students, 450 faculty members and 600 staff.

In 2024, CAHNRS secured more than \$105 million in extramural funding for research that helps support one of the country's most diverse agricultural economies.

Khosla currently leads the department of agronomy at Kansas State University.

"I look forward to building partnerships and initiating collaborations throughout the WSU system to develop programs with impact across the

state of Washington," Khosla said, in a news release.

Leadership and proven ability

Chris Riley-Tillman, WSU provost and executive vice president, said Khosla's leadership and proven ability to guide a large academic enterprise will strengthen the college.

"We are confident that under Dr. Khosla's leadership, CAHNRS will continue its storied legacy and advance WSU's land-grant mission of serving all people through edu-

cation, research and service," Riley-Tillman added, in a news release.

Khosla succeeds Wendy Powers, who announced her resignation in August 2024.

As the Cashup Davis Family Endowed Dean, Khosla will lead CAHNRS in developing a clear vision that enhances the college's training, research, extension and outreach initiatives. He'll be tasked with promoting academic excellence, fostering a dynamic research



Raj Khosla

environment and elevating the college's regional, national and global impact.

Scot Hulbert, CAHNRS' senior associate dean, will serve as acting dean starting June 16 until Khosla starts work at WSU.

Decades of contributions

Khosla's career spans decades of contributions to precision agriculture, including founding and serving as

past president of the International Society of Precision Agriculture.

His research focuses on using spatial and temporal variability in agro-ecosystems to improve management decisions for producers, enhancing production, resource efficiency and sustainability.

Khosla is a fellow of seven scientific societies, has won numerous accolades and his expertise has informed national and international agriculture policy.

PROPOSAL:

Continued from B13

Worries among farm organizations that the agricultural labor standards board concept will be resurrected do have a precedent in the recent past.

In 2021, many of the same groups pushing for the current bill advocated for eliminating the farm industry's exemption from paying workers higher overtime wages.

Though that legislation died in committee, lawmakers passed a similar bill the following year that phased out the agricultural overtime exemption over several years before fully eliminating it in 2027.

Now, farm groups fear the agricultural labor standards board is gaining a foothold before growers have adjusted to the higher overtime wages or stricter requirements for worker housing imposed earlier this year.

"Why can't we wait to see the impact of these huge changes before we are targeted yet again?" asked Tamura.





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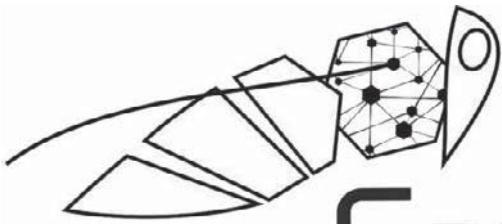


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Matthew Weaver/Capital Press
Spokane Conservation District director Vicki Carter stands amid Scale House Market construction March 13. Carter is proud of her team at the district. The year-round farmers market will have its grand opening May 31.

Longtime Spokane Conservation District leader ushers in year-round farmers market

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

SPOKANE — Vicki Carter walked with purpose, and excitement, through construction at the Scale House Market on a spring morning.

She checks on the building’s progress multiple times a day, she said.

The longtime Spokane Conservation District director paused several times to chat warmly with construction crew members and mural painters.

Warmth and kindness are hallmarks of Carter’s style of leadership.

“My two favorite people in the world are veterans

and farmers,” Carter said. “This is the job where I got to be right in the center of all of it. And really be a catalyst for change in a lot of those programs and projects.”

The year-round farmers market will have its grand opening May 31. The \$4.4 million building will house 65 vendors. The district received more than 150 applications.

Farmers can participate in a typical farmer’s market stand, selling their product directly to consumers. They can wholesale to Four Roots, a local, female veteran-owned

See SPOKANE, Page C3

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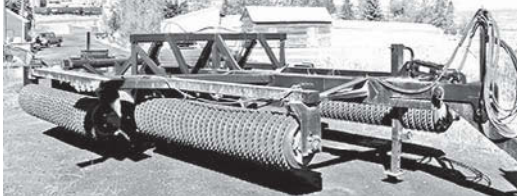


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Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Vicki Carter sits on a bench in the Spokane Conservation District office that bears the logo for the Vets on the Farm program, which marked its 10th anniversary in February. “My two favorite people in the world are veterans and farmers,” Carter says.

SPOKANE:

Continued from C2

food distribution organization and operating entity for the market. Or there’s collaborative dry or refrigerated shelf space, where farmers will stock and manage products, splitting revenue.

The market also offers an on-site commercial

kitchen and refrigerated/freezer storage.

“Vicki is one of those people who really sees a need and finds a way to fill it,” said Brittany Tyler, owner and CEO of Four Roots. “This project has become really a life-force of its own ... It’s really been a passion project and there’s nobody I’d be more honored to work

with on this than Vicki.”

The district recognized a need while observing food transportation difficulty during the COVID-19 pandemic and discussions about food insecurity, food access

See SPOKANE, Page C4

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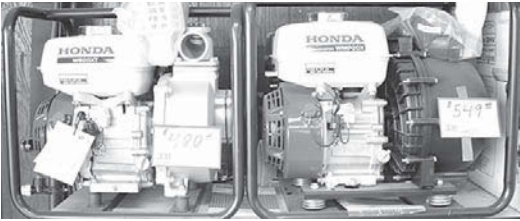
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GENUINE PARTS

SPOKANE:

Continued from C3

and economic barriers for small producers, Carter said.

The USDA identified 38 “food deserts” in the Pacific Northwest, areas that lack reliable access to fresh and affordable food, impacting 20% of residents, Carter said.

The Scale House was an existing building on the district property, a former rock quarry. The district conducted a feasibility study in 2022 to explore turning it into a regional food hub.

“This is like the pinnacle for me, this is a dream come true,” Carter said. “I’ve worked for the Spokane Conservation District for 35 years, and to be able to bring this to Spokane, and to our local producers and consumers, all in the name of promoting better quality food and better access for our consumers — it’s everything I believe in.”

‘I’ve grown up with the district’

Carter started out at the district working the front desk, answering phones, taking care of customers and helping with the tree sale. About six months later, she took over as office manager.

She has been director since 2011.

“I’ve grown up with the district,” she said. “When I started here we had four employees and an annual budget of \$150,000.

I’ve done pretty much every position — not the technical positions — within district operations, from human resources, finance, budget and accounting, public outreach, communications, policy and legislative work,” she said.

Today, there are 24 full-time employees, 37 during the height of seasonal work, and a \$16 million budget.

Carter points to the partnerships between state funding, grants and private funding.

The district is fundraising for its capital campaign for the farmers mar-

ket. The current goal is \$350,000. About \$250,000 has already been raised.

‘So much goodness’

The market is expected to draw about 250,000 people each year, Carter said. More than 18,000 have been estimated to be food-insecure and eligible for food assistance programs through the market. “It empowers 65-plus small farmers and small businesses,” she said, noting some are first-time and minority businesses.

The Washington State Small Business Development Center is co-located on the district campus, offering wrap-around business support services, including financial literacy and developing a business plan.

The market uses a single-source point-of-sale system, allowing farmers access to data to determine their input costs and cost margins, Carter said.

The market is projected to generate about \$14 million in sales each year.

“There is so much goodness on so many different levels that this brings to our community,” Carter said. “I couldn’t be more honored to be part of the Spokane Conservation District and Upper Columbia Resource Conservation and Development Council bringing this forward to Spokane and the region.”

Vets on the Farm

The district’s Vets on the Farm program marked its 10th anniversary in February. There will be a celebration in the new market in September.

Carter recalled attending a screening of the documentary “Ground Operations: Battle Fields to Farm Fields,” about post-Sept. 11 veterans struggling to reintegrate back into regular jobs.

In the film, Farmer-Veteran Coalition director Michael O’Gorman recognized how the farming population was aging, and noted that military skill-sets align with agriculture. “I had an ‘Aha’

See SPOKANE, Page C6



Gary L. West/Capital Press

The Washington FFA has elected new officers. They are, from left, Sentinel Aubrey Gardiner of Riverside FFA; Treasurer Ava Haase of Chelan FFA; President Katy Belles of Liberty FFA; Secretary Claire Sheehan of Sunnyside FFA; Vice President Gus Suksdorf of Liberty FFA; and Reporter Kaylyn Bozeman of White River FFA.

‘Electrifying’: New Washington FFA state officers excited for year ahead

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — It hadn’t quite sunk in yet for the new Washington FFA state officers Saturday night, but they were already very excited to connect with the state’s 15,000 members.

“It feels electrifying,” President Katy Belles, of Liberty FFA, located southeast of Spangle, told the Capital Press. “Throughout the next year, I really want to be able to connect with mem-

bers across the state and across the country. I really want to be able to listen to everyone’s needs, what everyone’s thinking, and be able to transmit that back to a state level through the state association.”

“I am ecstatic right now,” said Vice President Gustaf Suksdorf, also from Liberty FFA. “I really want to be able to inspire all of the members that I can come into contact with.”

See ELECTRIFYING, Page C8

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Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Spokane Conservation District director Vicki Carter, left, chats with artists Stacie Boyer and Jennifer Batey, at right, as they work on the mural for the new Scale House Market, the year-round farmers market on the district campus, March 13. At left on top, artist Rebecka Anderson also works on the mural.

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SPOKANE: hundreds of veterans transition into agriculture-based careers.

Continued from C4

moment,” Carter said.

The program has helped

See SPOKANE, Page C7

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SPOKANE:

Continued from C6

“The camaraderie gives them a sense of connection to their brotherhood or sisterhood of fellow veterans, and that is a powerful thing,” she said.

Farm manager Grant Weber first joined the program as a volunteer.

“She will do anything for you — she does expect a lot out of you, but she gives you everything you need to accomplish your mission,” Weber said.

The quarry

While driving out to Vets on the Farm’s 3-acre farm, Carter would pass the 50-acre former rock quarry that is now the conservation district’s base of operations.

She oversaw relocation in 2021, as the district’s lease on its previous building ended.

“It was probably the biggest blessing that could have ever come our way,” Carter said. “Just what this offers in terms of a resource back to the community is worth its weight in gold.”

The new site allows the district to demonstrate its programs, host classes and meetings and events. It includes a preschool, raising a new generation of “community-minded conservationists,” she said.

“What a perfect new beginning to this property that served decades as a quarry, being mined out for its gravels and rocks, which supported and contributed to our community in the way of roads, concrete, asphalt and what-not,” Carter said.

“Now it has this next-life where we are restoring and re-naturing it, really letting it go back to its former glory and beauty,” Carter said. While we’re doing that, we get to teach people about that whole process and the delicate balance between what we use as resources and what we protect for the future.”

Vast impact

“There is nobody I know of that has had a larger impact and contin-

ues to impact the industry as a whole, because it’s not any one facet of the industry that she is working towards the betterment of,” Tyler said of Carter. “It goes from the backyard gardener all the way to large-scale commodity agriculture production. Her impact is incredibly vast and will create positive change for generations to come.”

Carter was a mentor during the formation of the Columbia Community Creamery in Chewelah, Wash., the nation’s first and only non-profit milk processor, said board member Virginia Thomas.

Thomas, who owns the

Clover Mountain Dairy in Chewelah, first met Carter through Vets on the Farm.

“Some of her biggest strengths are her ability to see different parts that can be connected together, and how we can best connect them together to improve everybody,” Thomas said.

“She doesn’t do anything halfheartedly,” said Weber, the Vets on the Farm farm manager. “She’ll fight for you, and she’s very passionate about the projects she takes on. There’s no way that project’s not getting done or accomplished. She’s given way more than she’ll ever get back.”

The future

Carter will continue at the conservation district for several more years. She sees herself remaining in a development role.

“My goal when I do leave is that the Spokane Conservation District is just set for the future, on track for its 100th birthday, and Spokane has this well-rounded resource available to them for all things conservation-related,” she said. The district will turn 100 in 2041.

Carter’s message to farmers:

“Come grow with us, and I mean in that in every sense of the word,” she said. “Come grow with

VICKI CARTER

Title: Director, Spokane Conservation District

Age: 60

Hometown: Helena, Mont.

Current location: Spokane

Education: Studied business at Spokane Falls Community College and Whitworth University.

Family: Married, two adult children, four grandchildren.

Hobbies: Kayaking, biking, skiing, hiking. “We are big music buffs.”

Websites: Scale House

Market: https://thescalehouse-market.com/

us with your business, as we build out this regional infrastructure for farming, as we look at agriculture through a different lens into the future.”



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ELECTRIFYING:

Continued from C5

“Truly phenomenal,” said Claire Sheehan, secretary, of Sunnyside FFA. “I really want to represent this organization well, because I love it so much. I also want to have an influential impact on all the members that I come across, all 15,000.”

“Unreal — it hasn’t hit yet,” said Ava Haase, treasurer, of Chelan FFA. Her goal for the year ahead?

“Really to just serve as a mentor and be there as a learning tool for all 15,000 members.”

“Surreal,” said Kaylyn Bozeman, reporter, of White River FFA in Buckley. Her goals are “to meet as many people as I can and learn as much as I can.”

“It’s unreal, I don’t know how better to describe it,” said Aubrey Gardiner, sentinel, of Riverside FFA in Chattaroy. “I’m the first state officer

from my chapter, so this is like a very big accomplishment ... and I’m just so excited.”

“These guys are probably some of the smartest and most-equipped officers that we’ve seen,” said Seth Smith, Washington FFA state officer elections coordinator. “These guys especially are going to bring a real new level of professionalism to the association. I’m really excited to watch them connect with members across

the state, as they’ve connected with our committee the last three days.”

The state convention was May 8-10 on the Washington State University campus in Pullman.

About 2,831 members, advisors and guests registered for the convention, an increase over the previous year, said Tamara Whitcomb, advisor and executive director of the Washington FFA Association. Organizers last year estimated the convention

drew about 2,700 people.

Washington FFA reached 15,000 members for the first time this year, the association announced on its Facebook page in March.

“My biggest goal is to help people find their home, their community within FFA,” said Gardiner, the sentinel. “Because this is my home — I know exactly where I need to be, and this is it. And I want to help others do the exact same thing.”

Judge: Public denied input on Prineville water releases

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Oregon water regulators “failed to allow the public an opportunity to be heard” in regard to controversial water releases from the Prineville Reservoir, according to a judge.

The state’s Water Resources Department violated state law by proceeding with an expedited process to approve the water releases despite “public interest” objections to the proposal, said Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge

Annette Hillman.

“In a time when transparency is vital for trust in public agencies and for issues involving water rights in particular, the public and rural communities deserve the right to be heard when they raise public interest issues and not disregarded,” Hillman said in a recent ruling.

In 2023, irrigators upstream of the Prineville Reservoir filed a lawsuit challenging a permit issued by OWRD that allowed the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to release

stored water from the facility to increase stream flows, which is meant to improve fish habitat.

The irrigators worried the permit will increase the likelihood they’ll be deprived of water that will instead be used to replenish the reservoir, as the federal agency can issue a “call” on their water supplies because it has senior water rights.

Under the “prior appropriations” system of Western water law, owners of older “senior” water rights can ask state regulators to

shut off water to “junior” irrigators when there’s not enough to go around.

According to the plaintiffs — the Upper Crooked River Conservationists nonprofit and Shotgun Creek Ranch of Post, Ore. — OWRD wasn’t allowed to use an expedited process for the permit once they’d invoked specific “public interest issues.”

For example, the plaintiffs claimed the proposal raised public interest issues about using water to maximize economic development and preserve water for fire protection,

as well as the potential harms to existing water rights holders.

Because the opponents cited these issues, OWRD should have switched to regular permit procedures that included a “thorough public interest review,” the plaintiffs claimed.

“OWRD was not authorized by law to skip ahead and summarily dismiss the comments without also taking the application out of the expedited program to conduct the public interest review,” the plaintiffs said.

See WATER, Page C10



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Courtesy University of Idaho

Pramod Acharya has been hired by the University of Idaho as assistant professor and extension forage agronomy specialist.

UI hires forage agronomy specialist

Capital Press

The University of Idaho has hired Pramod Acharya as assistant professor and extension forage agronomy specialist. He will work on behalf of dairy, cattle and forage producers to advance “sustainable, resource-effi-

cient, eco-friendly and economic” approaches to forage production, storage and use, according to a UI news release. Acharya is based at UI’s Kimberly Research and Extension Center and also will be heavily involved in research at the Idaho Center for Food, Agriculture

and the Environment under construction near Rupert. Idaho CAFE will include the nation’s largest research dairy, where cow milking is slated to start by early 2026, according to the university. Acharya’s research and extension interests include understanding productivity and nutritive values of annual and perennial forages, soil nutrient management, soil health, carbon management, and resource-efficient and climate-resilient forage production.

He was raised on a subsistence-scale farm in Nepal, where his family raised vegetables, grain and a few cattle. “I was always interested in how one tiny seed would turn into a whole plant, feed-

See UI, Page C10

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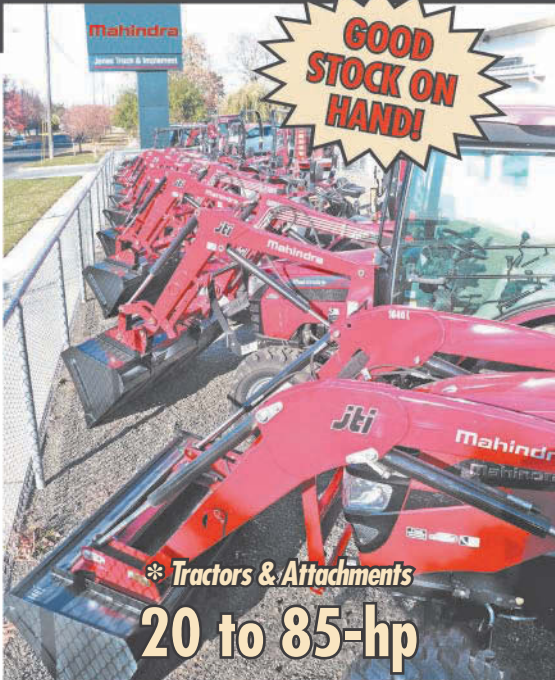


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UI:
Continued from C9

ing both people and live-stock,” Acharya said in the release. “That magic stuck with me. Farming wasn’t just how we lived; it was what shaped how we saw the world.”

He earned a bachelor’s degree in agriculture in 2014 from Tribhuvan

University in Lamjung, Nepal. He earned a master’s in biology in 2019 from Eastern New Mexico University and a doctorate in plant and environmental sciences in 2023 from New Mexico State University.

Acharya’s doctoral dissertation involved cover crop ecosystem impacts in silage corn and sor-

ghum rotations. He found cover crops improved soil organic matter, nutrient cycling, soil water infiltration and retention, and subsequent silage yield — more than offsetting water and nutrients used.

While pursuing his master’s degree, he researched how cover cropping and dairy compost in crop production systems influ-

enced soil health.

For UI, he plans to evaluate how varieties of perennial, non-bloating legumes establish and provide forage in southern Idaho compared to alfalfa, according to the release.

Acharya intends to study various blends of legumes, grass species and alfalfa to identify combinations that reduce cattle

bloating while delivering proper nutrition.

Another potential project would evaluate the south-central Idaho climate’s suitability for raising cover crops as additional forage for grazing immediately after 95-day silage corn.

His wife, Manisha, is also an agricultural researcher.

WATER:
Continued from C8

The agency responded that “no public interest issues were raised in the public comments” about the proposal, as they referred to irrelevant factors or “lacked any factual basis describing how the alleged public interest

issue was affected by the pending application to use stored water.”

Since none of the public interest issues specifically cited in Oregon law were raised in the objections, OWRD was allowed to continue processing the permit through expedited procedures, the agency said.

The judge rejected the state government’s arguments, finding that the OWRD’s interpretation “fails to consider any evidence that may be proffered in a standard review” and that it was unlawfully “outside the range of discretion” for the agency to proceed with the expedited process.

As a result, the judge said she plans to remand the permit to the OWRD “for the limited purpose to conduct the standard public interest review.”

However, the judge previously dismissed one of the central claims argued by the plaintiffs, who said the permit amounted to an in-stream water right unlawfully granted to the federal government, even though only the state government can hold such in-stream rights.

On that matter, the judge agreed with OWRD that the permit to use stored water does not amount to an in-stream water right even if it’s meant to increase stream flow to benefit fish.

“The court is not persuaded by petitioner’s argument that the use of the terms “instream” or “beneficial use” triggers the Instream Water Rights Act,” she said.



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Capital Press file photo

The Prineville Reservoir in Central Oregon. A judge has ruled the Oregon Water Resources Department violated state law by proceeding with water releases from the reservoir without allowing the public the opportunity to be heard.

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Farm groups extend label push to Congress

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Farm groups are looking for at least one branch of the federal government to ban state laws that contradict pesticide and herbicide labels approved by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Some 365 groups wrote Senate and House leaders May 28 asking Congress to pass the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act. The measure has languished without a hearing since it was introduced two years ago by Reps. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, and Jim Costa, D-Calif.

It would prohibit states from adding warnings to labels, or penalizing chemical makers for not printing warnings the EPA concluded were unnecessary.

Some of the same farm groups earlier in May submitted a friend-of-the-court brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to take up a case stemming from allegations glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup products, causes cancer, even though the EPA says it's not carcinogenic to humans.

In addition, attorneys general from 18 states have petitioned the EPA to write a rule affirming that the agency's findings on the health effects of pesticides are nationally binding.

The farm groups, which include the American Farm Bureau and the

Oregon, Idaho, Washington and California farm bureaus argue that farmers need to be sure that EPA labels are the law.

"We're really taking an 'all of the above' approach to bring certainty to this issue," American Soybean Association President Caleb Ragland said in a statement. "Unless there is clarity, we're worried manufacturers could exit the market and leave farmers without much-needed tools."

The EPA registers and labels crop protection products under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. The law allows states to regulate the sale and use of pesticides, as long as they don't allow uses prohibited by the EPA.

Johnson and Costa's bill would leave alone state authority to regulate the use of pesticides, but would prohibit warning labels such as the kind California attempted to put on glyphosate before it was stopped by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Other courts, however, looked more favorable at state laws. Farm groups asked House Speaker Mike Johnson, Senate Majority Leader John Thune, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer to support Johnson and Costa's bill to clarify EPA's authority.

"Gowers and users need

reaffirmation from Congress that while states have authority to regulate

the sale and use of pesticides within their jurisdiction, they cannot impose

labeling or packaging requirements in addition or different from the sci-



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National Park Service

Hundreds of farm groups are lobbying Congress to pass the Agricultural Labeling Uniformity Act to prohibit states from requiring warnings on crop-protection products different than required by the Environmental Protection Agency.



Courtesy Oregon Seed Council

Oregon grass seed farmers supply grass seed for major sporting venues around the world. The Oregon Seed Council was recently honored with an international trade award by the Oregon Consular Corps.

Shaniko Wool, Oregon Seed Council honored with global trade awards

Capital Press

Shaniko Wool and the Oregon Seed Council recently were honored with Global Trailblazer Awards at the Oregon Consular Corps' Celebrate Trade Gala.

"We are delighted to see Shaniko Wool and the Oregon Seed Council recognized for putting Oregon on the global stage," said Lisa Charpiloz Hanson, director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Shaniko Wool has provided fiber for Team USA uniforms at the opening ceremonies of the Olympics, while Oregon grass seed provides turf for the world's top athletic competitions.

"These organizations represent family farms and ranches that support local communities and improve the health of working lands across Oregon and beyond," Charpiloz Hanson said.

Shaniko Wool Company is headquartered near Maupin, Ore.

Founder Jeanne Carver has partnered with Ralph Lauren on uniforms for four Olympics.

Shaniko was the first farm group in the U.S. to be certified under the Responsible Wool Standard. RWS wool meets strict animal husbandry, land conservation and worker welfare guidelines to provide traceable fiber.

The Oregon Seed Council is a trade organization that advocates for seed farmers, seed marketers, bro-

kers, researchers and others involved in the industry.

It represents 1,300 seed farmers in Oregon, many of whom produce high-quality grass seed for arenas, stadiums and golf courses around the globe.

Oregon grass seed has been used for the playing fields for the last four FIFA World Cup soccer tournaments.

Other winners

The Global Trailblazer Award recognizes individuals, companies and organizations for their contributions to international trade, the Northwest's economy and quality of life.

This year's theme highlighted how Oregon "punches above its weight" in the sports, outdoor and recreation sectors.

Other winners were Benchmade Knives, based in Oregon City, Ore., and Keen Footwear, headquartered in Portland.

TrackTown USA and Hayward Field at the University of Oregon was honored with the Ambassador Award at the Celebrate Trade Gala.

The Oregon Consular Corps is an organization of career and honorary consular officials who serve or have served as representatives of foreign nations and jurisdictions in Oregon and the Pacific Northwest.

The group, with members representing 40 nations, promotes activities that support international trade, business, exchange and education.

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Stars aligning for another large Northwest blueberry crop

By **KYLE ODEGARD**
Capital Press

The Pacific Northwest has a long time until its blueberry harvest is complete, but conditions appear to be aligning for another large crop, experts said.

“It’s looking like Washington and the Northwest are going to have a very nice year for growers, processors, fresh packers and consumers,” said Alan Schreiber, Washington Blueberry Commission executive director.

The harvest was strong in 2024. Washington, the nation’s top producer, had a record harvest of 210 million pounds, up about 35 million pounds over the previous largest haul, Schreiber said.

This year, blueberry bushes across Washington had virtually no winter injury or damage from spring frost, and there were excellent pollination conditions, he added.

Oregon, the No. 2 state for production, also had favorable weather and an ample snowpack, so water won’t be an issue, said Bryan Ostlund, Oregon Blueberry Commission administrator.

Oregon’s 2024 harvest was 153 million pounds, up from recent seasons, Ostlund said.

“We’ve had six years in a row of kind of off yields and it’s all related to Mother Nature,” he said.

The state has never reached its harvest potential, Ostlund said.

The USDA has slightly different production figures, but valued Washington’s crop at \$205 million in 2024, up 51% over the previous year, followed by Oregon at \$195.5 million, up 34%.

California was third for production value at \$190 million, down 26%, as its price per pound plummeted.

The U.S. blueberry har-

vest was worth \$1.15 billion in 2024, up 6%, as utilized production rose 23% to 789 million pounds, according to USDA data.

This year, California has a good crop but slightly less volume than anticipated, said Joseph Vargas, North American Blueberry Council director of business intelligence.

Early southeastern states experienced abnormally low temperatures that caused a smaller pack-out than expected, he said in an email.

High demand, less in storage

Vargas said the 2024 season was the best ever for U.S. blueberry consumption and prices held steady.

“I think if you asked growers from different regions they would say that overall it was a solid year,” Vargas wrote.

Schreiber said there’s a scarcity of blueberries this spring because of high demand, particularly on the processed side.

“It is my opinion at this point that it is a seller’s market,” he said.

“I was in India about a month ago, and there were buyers in India that were calling around the Pacific Northwest trying to buy blueberries and nobody had any,” Schreiber said.

A May USDA report estimated 89 million pounds of frozen Pacific blueberries were in storage April 30, down 28% from the previous year.

Acreage increase

Area harvested rose for the West Coast and the U.S. in 2024, according to the USDA.

Vargas said he expects acreage to continue to grow, but replanting will have the biggest impact on volume.

New varieties can boost production 400% to 800% per acre, he said.

“We may actually see stagnant acreage numbers



Capital Press file photo
After strong crop volume in 2024, where Washington set a record for production, the Pacific Northwest blueberry industry seems primed for another huge harvest.

but increasing production numbers with new varieties and technology,” Schreiber said.

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House puts tax on remittances by non-citizens to foreign countries

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

The “big beautiful bill” passed by the U.S. House on May 22 includes a 5% tax on money non-citizens send to their home countries.

The tax will hit illegal immigrants, according to House leaders, but also will apply to guest workers in the country legally on work permits. The USDA estimates 40% of farmworkers are in the country illegally. The tax will apply to other types of workers.

The tax will amount to a pay cut, National Council of Agricultural Employers CEO Michael Marsh said. “It may put added pressure on the wage rate

to cover the cost of the tax,” he said.

The bill, officially titled the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act,” passed the House, 215-214. All 212 Democrats and two Republicans voted “no.” The bill now goes to the Senate.

Workers in the U.S. remit billions of dollars each year to other countries. India and Mexico are the leading recipients. The Inter-Development Bank, which finances projects in Latin America and the Caribbean, estimated workers sent \$161 billion to those regions in 2024. An estimated \$65 billion was sent to Mexico.

The Mexican government issued a press

release condemning the tax.

“This initiative has no justification for it, and we disagree with it,” Foreign Affairs Secretary Juan Ramon de la Fuente said.

“We will pursue the strongest defense, both politically and legally, because we believe this U.S. revenue-raising measure should not affect a significant and vulnerable portion of our compatriots,” he said.

The tax was included in a section of the bill that called for tightening restrictions on illegal immigrants receiving public benefits.

Under the bill, businesses transferring funds would be obligated to collect the tax, unless it veri-



Gary L. West/Capital Press

Signs at the entrance to Lorena’s in Hermiston, Ore., advertise service to send money to other countries. A bill that passed in the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday, May 22, would levy a 5% tax on money non-citizens send to their home countries if the bill becomes law.

fied the sender was a U.S. citizen or born in a U.S. territory.

Marsh said remittances to Mexico and elsewhere allow families to invest at home, reducing the motivation to come to the U.S. illegally. The tax, he said, “may encourage more irregular immigration,” he said.

There is evidence that remittances to other countries lead to economic development, rather than just an increase in consumption, according to a study by the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

GROUPS

Continued from C11

entific conclusions of the EPA,” the groups stated.

The Monsanto Company, owned by Bayer AG and makers of glyphosate, seeks the same outcome in its appeal to the Supreme Court.

A Missouri jury, following state law, awarded \$1.25 million to a man who claimed glyphosate gave him non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. A state appeals court upheld the judgement, ruling Monsanto failed to warn the man about potential risks.

The Supreme Court has yet to agree to take up the appeal. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, in a friend-of-the-court brief, said the stakes are enormous. If the Missouri verdict stands, businesses will be subject to a “crazy-quilt” of state requirements, according to the chamber.

The 18 attorneys general, mostly from Midwest and Southern states, argue the EPA should assert its authority. “Courts and states should not be allowed to undermine EPA’s risk assessments under FIFRA,” the attorneys general stated in comments to the EPA. The agency has not announced whether it will propose a rule.

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Klamath irrigators applaud new guidance on Endangered Species Act

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

The U.S. Department of the Interior updated its legal guidance regarding the Endangered Species Act in the Klamath Project, saying federal actions regarding the storage, diversion and delivery of water for irrigation are mandatory, not discretionary.

The guidance represents a significant change in policy in favor of irrigators.

The ESA only applies to discretionary matters and the Bureau of Reclamation can't alter its performance to the detriment of those with water contracts such as local farmers, according to a May 14 memo from Gregory Zerzan, the department's acting solicitor.

Rodney Cheyne, Klamath Irrigation District board president, said Reclamation will finally deliver on its promises to generations of agricultural producers and deliver water.

The project has been run on guidance that prioritized endangered species since 1995, he said.

"They're finally going to be doing it right and doing what they should have been all along," Cheyne said.

He added that federal water management practices from 30 years haven't benefitted endangered species.

An annual fight for water

Klamath Water Users Association officials



Courtesy Klamath Water Users Association
Language in the the recent Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act doesn't allow water to be diverted from the Link River Dam if that would be detrimental to water contractors, according to the U.S. Department of the Interior.

applauded the development, saying the new guidance is expected to be the basis for new water operation procedures in the Klamath Basin.

"There is work to do to translate the updated guidance into action," said Elizabeth Nielsen, KWUA executive director, in a news release.

Scott Seus, KWUA president, said project irrigators have suffered with the ESA being used as a rationalization for federal agencies arbitrarily dividing up water.

"Each year has been a fight for who-gets-what, but with no consistent guidance or understanding about the rules," Seus said, in the news release.

Nielsen said the updated guidance makes Reclamation's approach with the Klamath Project the same as it has been with other river basins for years.

"The rules applied to the project should be the same rules Reclamation has applied in other basins and defended in court for over a decade," Nielsen added, in a news release.

'May' versus 'shall'

Zerzan noted that his analysis did not diminish the federal government's commitment to local Native American tribes nor the legal rights of irrigators.

"While this memo addresses how the department will approach these at-times conflicting commitments, consistent with recent

law and judicial precedent, it does not resolve them. It will continue to be the duty of the United States to attempt to fulfill all of the commitments it has made to its citizens," Zerzan wrote.

The analysis, however, points to use of the word "shall" in the recent Klamath Basin Water Agreement Support Act regarding the operation of the Link River Dam.

"The unequivocal language does not provide Reclamation the discretion to divert water for other uses if to the detriment of the Klamath Reclamation Project contractors," Zerzan wrote.

Language in the act regarding restoration activities uses the word "may," meaning it is not mandatory, he said.

The act's mandates "thus

change the fundamental legal and operational paradigm in the Klamath Basin," Zerzan wrote.

Zerzan also referenced court precedents, including a case decided by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit in 2024.

History of the analysis

During President Donald Trump's first term, the Office of the Solicitor prepared legal analysis that was relied on in completing a

reassessment of ESA regulation of the Klamath Project.

That was quickly rescinded by Deb Haaland after she became Secretary of the Interior under former President Joseph Biden in 2021.

On Feb. 10, new Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum reversed Haaland's withdrawal and requested an updated legal analysis that supported the previous reassessment. That led to Zerzan's memo.

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EDKA DANISH SPRINGTOOTH CART, 50', Flex Harrow...\$13,500



BROEMELING HYDRAULIC HARROW CART, 60', Calkins/McFarlane, Hilco Flex Harrow + Lever Harrow, 5" Average Tines..\$7,500

COMBINES



REDEKOP MAV CHOPPER & SEED CONTROL UNIT, Came Off JD S780\$59,950

TRUCKS & TRAILERS



'12 KW T800, 577K Mi, Cummins ISX, 10 Spd, Lift Axle....\$39,950



COLT HOPPER PUP TRAILER, 21', Late Brakes, Airgate, 21' Tongue.....\$9,950



'17 C&B DECKOVER TRAILER, 16', 10K GVW, Ramps, Little Use\$4,500



'83 GMC 7000, 366 Gas, 5X2 Trans, 46K Miles, 18' Bed With KnapHoist, Removable Grain Box, Roll Tarp\$5,500



'99 TIMPTE HOPPER, 42', Roll Tarp, Aluminum Wheels, '86 Load King Pup, 17', Aluminum Wheels, Roll Tarp...\$29,950



WAUSAU M172A 25 TON LOWBED, 35' Length, 22' Deck, 5' Beaver tail, Air Brakes, New Tires\$7,500

DRILLS



WILRICH QUAD 5, 33', Airbox, Stealth Openers, 2 section Contol, Sweeps/Chisel Points, Fertilizer Points Included.....\$15,000



'23 AGPRO CROSS SLOT DRILL, 36' 10" Spacing, 1500 & 500 Gal Tanks, 135 Bu Airbox, Scales.....\$338,000

HARVEST



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



'94 FORD L9000, 336K Mi, Cat 3176, 10 Spd, 20' Bed/Hoist w/ Removable Box, Roll Tarp.....\$27,000



'12 KW T800, 543K Mi, Cummins ISX With Late Overhaul, 10 Spd, Lift Axle\$49,950



'96 IH 8100, 364K Miles, M11 With Fresh Overhaul, 10 Spd, 22' Grain Body, With Electric Tarp\$54,999



'98 PETERBILT 379 DAY CAB, N14 @ 535 Hp, 25K Miles On Out Of Frame Overhaul, 13 Spd, New Steer Tires, 10K Miles On Drive Tires\$47,950



'10 PETERBILT 384, 640K Mi, 410 HP Cummins, 10 Spd.....\$33,950



'06 KALYN STEPDECK, 42', Air Ride, Steel Deck, 96" Wide.....\$10,000

AG TRACKS



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