

WILLAMETTE VALLEY AG EXPO

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Willamette Valley Ag Expo marks 25th anniversary

By **CARL SAMPSON**
For the Capital Press

ALBANY, Ore. — The region's largest agricultural show is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year.

The Willamette Valley Ag Expo debuted in 2000 at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Ore.

"I was there from the beginning," said Scott Ingalls, who has produced the show each year with his wife, Jill.

To mark the occasion, each vendor will receive a special plaque with a ribbon for each year he or she has participated in the show. Vendors will celebrate the anniversary at their Thursday morning breakfast, he said.

"Many have been here since the beginning," said Ingalls.

The Expo is unique among ag shows because it is operated by the nonprofit Willamette Valley Ag Association, whose board is composed of leading ag businesses in the region.

"The vendors own the show," Ingalls said. The association sets aside the proceeds of each year's Expo to provide scholarships.

Two sets of scholarships are available, he said. One set of scholarships is for college students planning a career in agriculture, and the other set is for students going into the trades. Scores of students apply for the scholarships each year, he said.

This year's show, which will be Nov. 11-13, features 178 exhibitors offering the latest in equipment and services in four buildings with a total of 200,000 square feet.

The show also features a



Exhibitors at the Willamette Valley Ag Expo. (Capital Press, File)

full slate of informative and entertaining events.

Stockdogs are the heart of many livestock operations across the West. This year, Harris Stockdogs will offer demonstrations of what these amazing dogs can do. The demonstrations will take place in the Cascade Building every other hour during the Expo.

"People just love them," Ingalls said of the stockdogs. "It's incredible what they can do."

On Tuesday, the Oregon Farm Bureau's Austin McClister will offer information about moves in the state Legislature and Congress that could impact farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses. He will also answer questions from the audience. Farm Bureau members receive free admission to the Expo, Ingalls said.

Wednesday is Youth Ag Day, when FFA and 4-H students from around the valley are invited to attend the Expo free of charge.

With 500 to 600 FFA members attending, "that's a sea of blue jackets," he said. The Expo offers help with transportation costs for schools that need it. FFA

members will also help with the Expo's ticket booth in the front lobby.

Also in the lobby, Oregon Women for Ag will set up an informative exhibit honoring agriculture and the people who work the land.

On Wednesday and Thursday, a team of experts from Oregon State University will present this year's CORE pesticide classes; 4 credits are available.

While the Expo features the agriculture industry, Dine Around Oregon features the bounty of food it produces.

Ingalls credits wife Jill with coming up with the idea for the unique progressive dinner that takes place Wednesday evening. It provides a unique opportunity to enjoy Oregon-grown fare while checking out the many exhibits. A special stockdog demonstration will take place at 7 p.m. and a country folk group will serenade diners in the Cascade Building.

During the rest of the Expo, the FFA Cafe in the Cascade Building will offer food for hungry Expo attendees.

A featured lunch is also offered each day in the Calapooia Arena.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, Nov. 11

9 a.m. Doors open.

All day: FFA Cafe. Cascade Building

Every other hour: Harris Stockdog demonstration. Cascade Building.

9:30 a.m. Coffee Talk with Oregon Farm Bureau. Austin McClister on topics related to the state Legislature and Congress and their impact on agriculture. Q & A follows.

Noon: Featured lunch. Calapooia Arena.

6 p.m. Doors close.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

Youth Ag Day

10 a.m. Doors open.

All day: FFA Cafe. Cascade Building.

Every other hour: Harris Stockdog demonstration. Cascade Building.

10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CORE pesticide

training classes. Oregon State University experts.

Noon: Featured lunch. Calapooia Arena.

5-8 p.m. Dine Around Oregon progressive dinner. Featuring Painted Hills beef, Carlton Farms pork and Reed Anderson Ranch lamb.

7 p.m. Special Harris Stockdog demonstration. Cascade Building.

8:30 p.m. Doors close.

Thursday, Nov. 13

10 a.m. Doors open.

All day: FFA Cafe. Cascade Building

Every other hour: Harris Stockdog demonstration. Cascade Building.

10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CORE pesticide training classes. Oregon State University experts.

4 p.m. Doors close.

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WVAE offers free CORE pesticide credits

A key component of every Willamette Valley Ag Expo is the CORE pesticide classes to keep farmers and ranchers current on their continuing education requirements.

This year the Expo's organizers have called on Oregonians for Food and Shelter, which will provide a team of experts from Oregon State University, the state Department of Agriculture and Cultivate Northwest. They will offer the latest information on topics ranging from pollinator protection to sprayer calibration.

The classes are Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and repeat on Thursday.

Four credits are available, and no pre-registration is required. The classes are complimentary with paid admission to the Expo.

Wednesday, Nov. 12

- 10:30 a.m. Pesticide Labels and Pollinator Protection. Andony Melathopolous, Oregon State University.

- 11:30 a.m. Integrated Weed Management. Oregon State University Weed Science Research Team.

- 12:30 p.m. Lunch break.

- 1:30 p.m. Air Blast Sprayer Calibration and Technologies to Maximize Application Efficiency. Brent Warneke, Oregon State University.

- 2:30 p.m. Staying on Target: Protecting Crops and the Environment. Dani Lightle, Cultivate



Four free core pesticide credits will be available at the Willamette Valley Ag Expo. (Capital Press, File)

Northwest.

Thursday, Nov. 13

- 10:30 a.m. Air Blast Sprayer Calibration and Technologies to Maximize Application Efficiency. Brent Warneke, Oregon State University.

- 11:30 a.m. Integrated Weed Management. Oregon State University Weed Science Research Team.

- 12:30 p.m. Lunch break.
- 1:30 p.m. Getting tough with pests and going soft on pollinators. Andony Melathopolous, Oregon State University.

- 2:30 p.m. Staying on Target: Protecting Crops and the Environment. Dani Lightle, Cultivate Northwest.

The presenters:

- Brent Warneke is a senior fac-

ulty research assistant and Ph.D. student at Oregon State University. He is working on improving chemical use efficiency in specialty crops with sensor-controlled air blast sprayers.

- Matthew Bucy is a pesticide registration specialist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

- Dani Lightle is the policy and stewardship director for Orego-

nians for Food and Shelter.

- Andony Melathopolous is an associate professor of pollinator health at Oregon State University.

- The OSU Weed Science Team includes Aaron Becerra-Alvarez, an assistant professor of weed science; Marcelo Moretti, an associate professor of weed science; and Victor Ribeiro, an assistant professor and Extension weed specialist.

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Oregon Farm Bureau will present legislative update

When farmers and ranchers want to know the inside story about issues impacting them in the state Capitol, the Oregon Farm Bureau is the place to go.

The ag organization — the largest in the state with 6,500 members — works hard to keep an eye on the legislature and state government. From the controversial state transportation package to statewide water issues, Farm Bureau stays on top of all matters involving agriculture in a way that no other organization does.

At 9:30 a.m. Tuesday in

the Willamette Conference Center, the Farm Bureau's Austin McClister will meet with farmers and ranchers to discuss what the legislature is up to. McClister is the director of communications, which puts him at the epicenter of the Farm Bureau's legislative efforts.

He'll share his insights and answer questions from the audience.

An added feature this year is free admission to the Expo for Farm Bureau members, according to Expo producer Scott Ingalls.

Stockdog demos are popular attraction

Some of the stars of this year's Willamette Valley Ag Expo will have four legs and wagging tails. They are stockdogs.

Ty and Leah Harris of Harris Stockdogs will be on hand during the Expo, demonstrating why herding dogs have become an import-

ant ingredient on many farms and ranches.

"People just love them," said Scott Ingalls, who produces the Expo. This is the second year the stockdog demonstrations have been featured.

The demonstrations will be every other hour starting one hour after the

Expo opens, according to the Expo's website. They will take place in the Cascade Building.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, the Harris will present a special demonstration during Dine Around Oregon, the Expo's unique progressive dinner.



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Exhibitors at the Willamette Valley Ag Expo. (Capital Press, File)

Additional Dine Around Oregon sponsors are Ag West Farm Credit, March McLennan Agency, Ag Chains Plus Inc., Citizens Bank, Farmland Tractor, Oregon Dairy Women, Reed Anderson Ranches and Manning Farms.

Additional support comes from:

Les Schwab Tires, for the Willamette Valley Ag Association Scholarships.

Boshart Trucking and Singer Lewak, for Ag Youth Day Transportation.

Nutrien Ag Solutions, for the Oregon Women for Ag Display and Coffee.

'Dine Around Oregon' is a show feature

Several years ago, Jill Ingalls had an idea. She proposed that the Willamette Valley Ag Expo present a different kind of event, one featuring Oregon-grown foods.

But there was a twist. Instead of a sit down affair, Ingalls' plan would be a progressive dinner called Dine Around Oregon.

Diners would stroll throughout the four buildings of the Expo, sampling appetizers, Painted Hills beef, Carlton Farms pork and Reed Anderson Ranch lamb as they moved among the exhibits.

Diners would be issued passports, which are stamped at the "mileposts" inside the Expo's four buildings:

- Appetizer Milepost: In the Calapooia Arena, it features soups and Oregon cheeses.

- Pork Milepost: In the Cascade Building, it offers a tasty

pork entrée with sides.

- Beef Milepost: In the Willamette Events Center, it offers a beef entrée with sides.

- Lamb Milepost: In the Santiam Building, it offers a lamb entrée with sides.

"It was a unique thing," said Jill's husband, Scott. Together, they have produced the Expo since its beginning 25 years ago.

The "Dine Around" dinner has been a roaring success. Tickets have been sold out every year.

The Dine Around Oregon dinner will be 5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday.

This year's dinner will include special entertainment. At 7, Harris Stockdogs will present a special demonstration, and a country-folk group will serenade diners in the Cascade Building.



Dine Around Oregon is a progressive dinner during the Willamette Valley Ag Expo. (Capital Press, File)

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