ADVERTISING INDEX LOCATED ON PAGE A10

August 2025

The Growers' Guide

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



FUTURE TRADERS

UI STUDENTS USE REAL MONEY TO GAIN GRAIN TRADING EXPERIENCE

Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

University of Idaho students watch a presentation by then-Viterra agronomist and buyer Daniel Stenbakken, right, June 2 as part of the week-long Portland Grain Trade Tour of the region's grain industry. Viterra and Bunge completed a merger in July. The university's agricultural commodity risk management program provides students with a full view of the grain industry.

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

MOSCOW, Idaho — Students at the University of Idaho get their first real feel of what it means to be a grain trader right in the classroom.

Students in Agricultural Economics 4690, "Commodity Trading," use funds provided by the Barker Board Endowment Fund to make real trades on the commodity market.

"The most important thing is that students are being exposed to trade, with real money," said Andres Trujillo-Barrera, director of the university's Barker Agricultural Commodity Risk Management program. "They are trading real money, real positions. They are taking this very seriously."

The course is offered in partnership with UI College of Business and Economics' Barker Capital Management and Trading Program.

See TRADERS, Page A11

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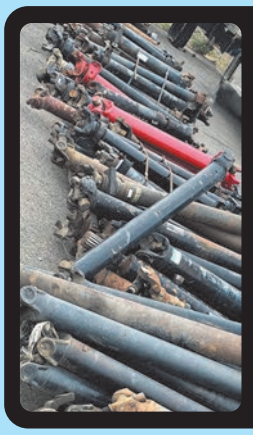
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USDA report details sweet production for Northwest cherry crop

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

U.S. sweet cherry production from the four states tracked by the USDA is expected to rise 4% this season, as increases in Washington and Oregon should more than offset decreases in California and Michigan.

Washington's harvest is forecast to surge 29% to 260,000 tons, accounting for roughly 68% of the national crop of 383,000 tons.

That would be the most production for the state in eight years, according to the latest USDA Economic Research Service's Fruit and Tree Nuts Outlook, released July 24.

Oregon's sweet cherry harvest is predicted to climb 4% this season, while California's crop is expected to plummet 38%, and Michigan's production is anticipated to drop 31%.

Washington orchards experienced favorable bloom and early summer growing conditions this season.

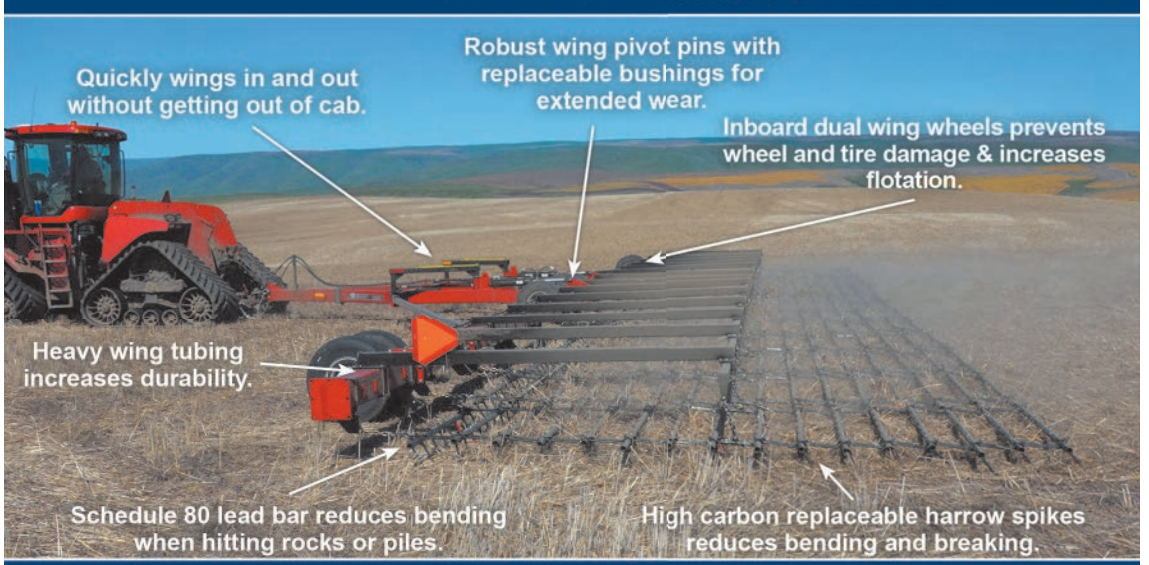
Weekly shipment volumes and price data through early July also indicate a steadier supply and demand situation this year compared to the compressed harvest window from two seasons ago.

There also was minimal overlap with California's crop.

See CHERRY, Page A5

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Courtesy Northwest Cherry Growers

Cherries ÿll bins in this ÿle photo. Washington's sweet cherry harvest is predicted to surge 29% this season, while Oregon's crop is expected to climb 4%, according to a USDA report.

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It's blueberry season in the Northwest

BY DANA

Summer means blueberries in the Pacific Northwest. Here are some recipes from the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council.



Blueberry cream pie

Ingredients

- 2-1/2 cups frozen blueberries
- 2 teaspoons cornstarch
- 5 tablespoons sugar
- 2/3 cup mascarpone cheese
- 2/3 cup plain Greek yogurt
- 1-1/3 cups nondairy whipped topping
- 1 (9-inch) prepared graham cracker pie crust
- Fresh blueberries, for garnish

Directions

1. In a medium saucepan combine frozen blueberries, cornstarch and 2 tablespoons of the sugar. Stir.
2. Cover; cook over low heat , stirring occasionally, until berries thaw and the mixture starts to simmer, 5 to 7 minutes; remove lid.
3. Boil until thickened 1 minute; set aside. Let cool to room temperature.
4. When blueberry mixture is cool, prepare pie. In a medium bowl, combine mascarpone cheese, yogurt and remaining 3 tablespoons sugar. Beat with electric mixer until smooth.
5. Fold in whipped topping. Spoon half of the mixture into the pie crust. Spread with the cooled blueberry mixture.
6. Carefully top with dollops of the remaining cheese mixture; spread carefully over blueberry mixture to cover.
7. Chill until set, about 5 hours. Garnish with fresh blueberries.

Blueberry galette



Ingredients

Crust

- 3 cups unbleached all-purpose ° our
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 4 ounces lard or shortening, cut into 1/2-inch pieces and frozen
- 1 cup unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch pieces and refrigerated
- 1/2 cup ice water
- 1 teaspoon vodka

Filling

- 8 cups fresh or frozen blueberries
- 3/4 cup sugar + 2 tablespoons, separated
- 3 1/2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 lemon, zested
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon water
- Instructions

Crust

1. Combine the ° our, salt and sugar in a food processor. Add the butter and lard.
2. Use the food processor to work the butter and lard into the ° our by pulsing it until the butter is in pea-sized pieces.
3. Whisk the water and vodka together and add it to the ° our/butter mixture a few tablespoons at a time. It will start to look shaggy, but not dry. It should hold together when you squeeze it in your hand.
4. Gently press the dough into a ball using a pastry scraper or your hands. Divide the dough into two pieces and create round disks. Wrap the dough in plastic and refrigerate for at least an hour, or overnight.

Filling

1. In a small bowl, combine 3/4 cup of sugar, cornstarch, salt, and lemon zest. Massage the zest into the sugar.
2. In a large bowl, toss together the blueberries and lemon juice. Add the sugar/lemon zest mixture and gently stir to coat the blueberries.
3. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. On a ° oured surface, roll out the chilled pie dough into a 1/8-inch-thick circle. Dust o¸ any extra ° our and lay crust onto the prepared pan.

See KITCHEN, Page A8

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CHERRY:

Continued from A2

Domestic shipment volumes of Washington sweet cherries were 17% higher through mid-July than the previous year.

Washington sweet cherry exports also were up to top destinations Canada, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan through mid-July, but China shipments lagged.

In California, the San Joaquin County, which produces about 80% of the state's sweet cherries, reportedly experienced spring heat and excessive rains that contributed to poor yields and crop loss.

In May, the San Joaquin Agricultural Commissioner requested a disaster declaration for cherry growers.

The short California crop meant U.S. sweet cherry exports were down 60% by volume and 45% by value from April through May compared to 2024.

About 30% of U.S. fresh market sweet cherry production was exported in the past two seasons.

Lower blueberry shipments

U.S. blueberry production reached a record high of about 880 million pounds in 2024, up 21% over 2023.

This year, domestic blueberry shipments were lower through mid-July than the previous season.

Washington and Oregon fit into that trend, though industry reports indicated excellent quality to start off the season.

Good weather conditions aided spring pollination in the Pacific Northwest.

Shipments from Georgia and Florida also were lower as weather events negatively impacted harvest in the Southeast.

Lower strawberry shipments

Strawberry utilized production in the U.S. hit a record 3.22 billion pounds in 2024, up 12% from the previous year.

Domestic shipments were lower through mid-July this year than in 2024, but higher than 2023.

While early season shipments from Florida were up, shipments from Central and Southern California declined.

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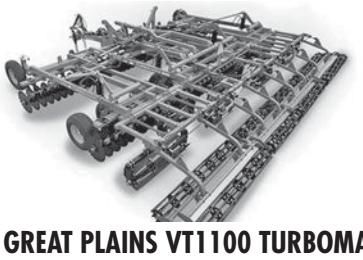
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Liedl is new U.S. Wheat vice president of overseas operations

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Brian Liedl, longtime Pacific Northwest grain trader, is the new vice president of overseas operations for U.S. Wheat Associates.

He will be based in U.S. Wheat's Portland office.

"I've had the good fortune of working with U.S. Wheat a lot in my career," Liedl told the Capital Press, citing his 15 years at United Grain as an exporter. "The people at U.S. Wheat are first class. I really wanted to be working with such a high quality, such an effective group. The opportunity came up and I just couldn't say no."

Liedl was serving as industry representative on the Washington Grain Commission board. He resigned June 30 to take on the new position at U.S. Wheat.

Liedl said the biggest need the organization currently has is "growing the number of sustainable export markets that we have."

Price competitiveness varies based on crop size each year.

"We don't really get to control price," Liedl said. "What we do get to control are our quality and what we do as far as building the relationships with the customers."

The Philippines and Thailand are success stories, where the U.S. has high market share because those millers depend on U.S. quality, he said.

"We have high quality wheat at affordable prices that's available for export," Liedl said. "We're a reliable supplier; many other places around the world, you get a lot of variation."

Prices

"Just to be frank, right now prices are low," Liedl said. "Farmers are not in a very good spot as far as overall profitability. But the cure for low prices is low prices."

Corn and soybeans are similarly affected, he said.

Demand is building, he said. Export inspections the week of July 21 were some of the largest in more than a decade, and export demand is ahead of pace from the same time last year.

U.S. Wheat aims to build the base of demand so that customers stick with American farmers as prices rise because they want to maintain that high quality, Liedl said.

Liedl praised farmers for recent high production years, citing their land management and increased amounts of grain.

"Now it's our job to go find markets that hopefully can grow with them and lead to some better prices down the road," he said.

FURTHER READING

https://tinyurl.com/LiedlCapitalPress



Brian Liedl stands in front of the Washington Grain Commission building in Spokane June 3, 2024. Formerly a grain exporter and industry representative on the commission board, Liedl is now the vice president of overseas operations for U.S. Wheat Associates, based in the Portland office.

Matthew Weaver/Capital Press fil

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It's the Pitts: E-cows

By LEE PITTS

It's looking more and more like ranchers are going to have electronic ear tags shoved down their throat whether they like it or not. In the future you'll be required to use EID tags so your cattle can be scanned like a can of peaches in the grocery store. Here are ten events I see happening to ranchers someday as a result. Just remember, you read it here first.

10: The IRS will have a huge air force of drones for the sole purpose of flying over ranches to take an inventory so they'll know exactly how many animals you have so that at the end of the year you'll get an all-new inventory tax bill. Whatever happened to the unwritten rule that it's impolite to ask a rancher how many cows he or she owns?

9: Not only will the feds have drones to count cows, ranchers will have their own drones to take a daily inventory. Then your neighbor will send you a feed bill for having five cows on his place for 27 days. If you thought the Hatfield and McCoy's feud was bad just wait until ranchers start spying on their neighbors.

8: The Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management will have a drone air force too. One day after your due date for getting all your cows removed from your allotment they will do a flyover to make sure you got off on time. But because the EID tag is still in the ear of a dead cow that was either killed by wolves or shot by a short-sighted hunter the feds will assess you a huge fine, take your allotment away and throw you in jail for not removing ALL your cows in a timely manner.

7: The USDA will say that their new rules will apply only to those cattle involved in interstate commerce. But is a rancher in California going to commit economic suicide because most of the California stockers are sold to feeders in Nebraska, Colorado, etc. and by not using EID tags he's going to eliminate them from bidding on his cattle?

6: Auction markets are disappearing faster than a dozen donuts at a police station due to the U.S. beef cattle herd being the smallest it's been in 64 years. This is really hurting some of the smaller auction yards. When they are told how much it will cost to install EID readers on their scale and to update computer programs to tie that information in with the price paid, many of the auction owners will just quit.

See PITTS, Page A7

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CONSTRUCTION



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MISCELLANEOUS

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KICHEN:

Continued from A4

4. Mound the blueberry ÿlling in the middle of crust. Fold and crimp the dough up so that it covers at least 2 inches of the ÿlling. Freeze the shaped galette for at least 15 minutes to chill the dough.
5. Preheat the oven to 425°F and set rack in middle of the oven.
6. Just before baking, beat the egg and water together and brush the edges with egg wash. Sprinkle crust with the remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar.
7. Bake for 30 minutes, then turn the oven down to 350°F and bake for an additional 30 minutes.

One-bowl classic blueberry muffins

Ingredients

- 1⁄4 cup sugar
- 1⁄3 cup butter, melted
- 2 eggs
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups all-purpose ¸our
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 teaspoons baking power
- 3⁄4 cup milk
- 1 cup blueberries

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 425°F. Line mu″ n tin with paper or liners or grease well with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, whisk together sugar and melted butter until well combined.
3. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well a˙ er each addition. Add vanilla extract.



4. Add ¸our, salt, and baking powder and mix.
5. Slowly pour milk into batter and mix until just combined.
6. Gently fold in blueberries.
7. Pour the batter into prepared mu″ n tin and bake 20-25 minutes.



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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.

***PHOENIX CL:** Two-gene Clearfield hybrid with proven performance in the PNW. Superior cold tolerance. Vigorous fall growth helps overcome insect feeding. Early maturity. Enhanced pod shattering resiliency. High yield potential.

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***COLIN CL:** hybrid with medium maturity. High cold tolerance. Excellent root development. Good drought tolerance and plant health. Superior tolerance to pod shattering compared to Plurax CL. Multi-gene Blackleg resistance. High yield and oil content potential.

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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

***Phoenix CL, Clavier CL & Colin CL compatible within Clearfield wheat rotations.**

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PITTS:

Continued from A7

5: EID readers and computer programs will make the USDA's job much easier. At the touch of a keystroke they will know how many cattle and what prices were paid. This will allow packers to know immediately which auction markets to send their buyers to in order buy their cattle the cheapest.

4: One day you'll sell a slaughter cow that will be ground up in a big batch of ground beef that could potentially have meat in it from a couple dozen countries. When it's found that a specific batch of hamburger has e coli in it and because they'll know your cow contributed to that particular batch the USDA will send officials out to your place to depopulate your entire herd, including those two new $10,000 bulls you just bought. D9 bulldozers will then show up to dig a big trench and bury all your beautiful cows. The packers will love it because they can assign all the blame to you and you'll get sued and lose your ranch despite the fact that the dirty cow meat actually came from Australia.

3: Using the IRS inventory you will receive a BIG BILL from the EPA based on how many head you own multiplied by their supposed greenhouse gas production.

2: Good help will be as rare as a cowboy with a 401K. That's because a cattleman will someday be able to check the temperature of all his cows, or all his cattle in a feedlot, with a drone and a special EID reader. Cowboys will be replaced by drone pilots and virtual fences.

1: You inventory tax bill may be inflated by one head thanks to the Longhorn head hanging over your fireplace with an EID tag still in its ear.

EPA to renounce right to regulate for climate change

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed giving up its authority to regulate greenhouse gases, a power the agency gave itself during the Obama presidency.

The Trump EPA issued a 304-page mea culpa July 29, arguing it was wrong to proclaim carbon dioxide, methane and four other greenhouse gases a menace to public health for contributing to climate change.

The "endangerment finding" in 2009 imposed no law, but was a prerequisite to EPA claiming the power to limit greenhouse gases, including potentially from agriculture.

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked EPA rules limiting greenhouse gases from stationary sources and power plants, but the Biden EPA used the endangerment finding to impose stringent tailpipe emission standards designed to boost sales of electric cars and trucks.

The EPA will formally rescind the endangerment finding after a public comment period. Trump administration officials, however, already were celebrating.

EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said it will be the "largest deregulatory action in the history of the United States." His predecessor made "many mental leaps" to creatively find authority in the Clean Air Act to regulate greenhouse gases, Zeldin said.

The EPA will continue to regulate air pollution from vehicles and set fuel economy standards, but won't limit greenhouse gases unless directed to do so by Congress, Zeldin said.

The endangerment finding made life more expensive and limited opportunities, said Energy Secretary Chris Wright, who joined Zeldin at a press conference at an auto dealership in Indianapolis, Indiana.

"Today is a momentous day for liberty, for freedom and for energy to drive betterment of your lives," he said.

"Whether you're interested in climate change or not, the politics surrounding climate change have shrunk your life possibilities," Wright said. "Electric vehicles are not climate tools, but they're politically popular because rich people like them."

Environmental groups and Democrats denounced rescinding the endangerment finding.

Washington Attorney General Nick Brown said he will consider options in challenging the move.

"We won't stand by as our children's future is sacrificed to appease our fossil fuel interests," he said in a statement.



Courtesy of EPA

Lee Zeldin, Environmental Protection Agency administrator announces July 29 in Indianapolis that the EPA proposes to repeal a 2009 ÿnding that gave the agency authority to limit greenhouse gases.

To coincide with the EPA's announcement, the Department of Energy released a report assessing the impact of greenhouse gases on the U.S. climate.

The report concluded that greenhouse gases have been less economically damaging than was commonly feared and that aggressive carbon-reduction measures may be misguided.

The report cited studies suggesting an increase in carbon dioxide improves crop yields.

"There is reason to conclude that on balance climate change has been and will continue to be neutral or beneficial for most U.S. agriculture," the report states.

Back in 2009, the EPA said greenhouse gases and warmer temperatures could increase yields and extend growing seasons, but that the threat of intensifying droughts and storms, and spreading insects, weeds and diseases pointed toward the potential for more crop failures.



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2020 RBR VENTURI, 810 bed, 1889 Hours..... $199,500



2020 RBR ENTERPRISE VENTURI 400, Case IH Flex Air 810 70' Boom. Raven Viper 4, 4 wheel drive. Electric Roll Tarp. Foot or Hand Throttle control. 2070 Hrs $162,000



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



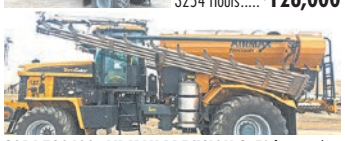
2017 RBR VENTURI 350, Cummins diesel, Allison auto, Case IH 810 Flex Air, 3 bin, 70' boom, electric tarp, Viper IV, c650/65R38 flotation tires near new. 1890 Hours ... $147,500



CRANE, 50' Ton Capacity, 96' Maximum boom length, 39' Minimum boom length, Deutz Lower & Upper Engines, Manual Transmission, 8x6, Carrier Heater, Upper Heater, Load Block, Load Moment Indicator, 6 spare tires ... $42,000



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



2014 TG8400, AIRMAX PRECISION 2, 70 foot stainless steel booms, Granular coap 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



1976 TRINITY 18,000 GALLON 265PSI TANK, Tank is on skids and includes plumbing, NH3 removed, the tank is ready to ship. Located in Choteau MT. 109" Diameter. 41' length..... $45,000



'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.... $135,000



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 ... $168,500



2011 MERRITT MVT TENDER TRAILER 38.5' aluminum tender trailer, rear hydraulic discharge conveyor, under hopper conveyor, outer controls, electric roll over tarp $32,500





'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 MultiApplier 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



2016 RBR ENTERPRISE VENTURI 350, fertilizer spreader, Cummins diesel engine, Allison automatic transmission, 350Hp, 4 wheel drive, air ride chassis, 13 foot, New Leader L4000 G4 twin spinner, All Hydraulic, Raven Viper Pro monitor, smart trax auto steer, 4099 Hours ... $98,500



'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..... $88,000



2007 KENWORTH T300 LP TRUCK, Cummins, 6 spd, 3,200 gallon Trinity LP delivery bottle, good data tag, single metered hose reel, 22.5 tires, 305,078 miles. (Currently being used for propane storage) $44,500



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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Younker Bros.	800-362-2387	C7

TRADERS:

Continued from A1

The total endowment provided by Barker to the ag commodity risk management program is about $250,000, used as margin money deposited to initiate trades.

During the spring semester, there were more than 100 financial trades, with the class using a total of about $150,000, at about $1,500 per trade, Trujillo-Barrera estimated.

The full margin deposit and corresponding profits were returned to the endowment at the end of the semester, to be used by the next class of students.

Students must provide a technical analysis when they propose a trade.

"They are free to pick the market that they want," Trujillo-Barrera said. "If they have a good proposal, we discuss it with them."

The class is repeatable, with returning students taking the role of senior traders and mentoring newcomers.

"Our role as faculty is more like coaching and facilitating, letting them have space to learn by doing, more like an experiential learning course," Trujillo-Barrera said. "We do not necessarily enforce a lot, we just suggest certain risk management protocols. We try to emphasize the importance of fundamental analysis."

The class is offered in the spring, but trading activity continues in the fall through the Agricultural Risk Management Club.

UI offers a 12-credit agricultural commodity risk management certificate. About 33 students are enrolled in the certification program.

The university in 2023 added a commodity risk minor. About 12 students are currently enrolled.

Students can also sign up for the one-credit Portland Grain Trade Tour, part of the curriculum and the AgBiz Fellowship grant program, which involves three lectures and a weeklong tour along the region's industry, from UI's campus in Moscow, Idaho to Portland in the summer.

In June, students visited various key locations, including the then-Viterra canola crushing plant in Warden, Wash., now Bunge; several grain trading organizations, the Wheat Marketing Center and the Port of Portland.

About 100 students take the program's various courses each year.

Seventeen students graduated with a major in agribusiness and a certificate in spring 2025.

The program is meant to be experiential learning, and serve as a transition into the profession, Trujillo-Barrera said.

"We try to emphasize that they should put on the shoes of a market analyst, trader, or financial analyst," he said. "They need to make a shift in their mind — they are not students any more, they are actually people who have a responsibility for their jobs."



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

University of Idaho students sign in June 2 to tour the then-Viterra canola crushing plant in Warden, Wash., one of the stops on the week-long Portland Grain Trade Tour of the Paciÿc Northwest industry. Viterra and Bunge completed a merger in July. The university's agricultural commodity risk management program gives students a full view of the broader industry, including the use of real money to learn how to trade on the grain market.

'It's not a simulation, it's the real thing'

"It doesn't get any more real than this," echoed clinical associate professor Norm Ruhoff, who helped found the ag program in 2017.

As part of the class, a student will call a broker, he said.

See TRADERS, Page A12

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'04 CASE IH 450, PTO, 36", 7340 hrs $130,000
'03 CASE IH 450 QUAD, PTO, 36", 10,700 hrs $110,000
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TRADERS:

Continued from A11

"Without fail, every year, we put the speakerphone on and the class grows quiet," Ruhoff said. "There's a look in the student's eye: They suddenly realize, 'I am engaging with real money.'"

That's in keeping with the spirit of UI alum Rotchford "Rotchy" Barker, a successful commodity trading broker at the Chicago Board of Trade for more than 30 years, who founded the business college's program, Ruhoff said.

"He wanted students to get that first initial trade here," Ruhoff said. "It may not always be a profitable trade, but sometimes you learn more from a losing proposition than a winning proposition."

The instructors make the students aware of how much money they're putting into risk, as well as a target for how much money they wish to make.

"We establish a price, we also establish a risk management protocol, where they are going to have a stop-limit, a stop-loss, the maximum amount that they can lose," Trujillo-Barrera said.

"Most of the markets are liquid enough that we can enter at the price that we want, and stop very very close to the exit points that we determined."

For less fluid markets, such as dairy, instructors establish "mental stops" and ask the students to track market movement like a hawk.

The program includes access to the Barker Trading Room, which is designed to replicate an open trading floor environment.

Students can also use onsite Bloomberg terminals — "the gold standard for financial analysis," Trujillo-Barrera said — and real-time market quotes.

"It's just like being a real trader; it's not a simulation, it's the real thing," he said.

The program has generally been profitable the last three years, Trujillo-Barrera said. He estimates that it's about 50-50 across the history of the program.

"We are not making a ton of money, but at the same time, we are not losing," he said.

'Unprecedented volatility'

Ruhoff spent 30 years in the industry after graduating from UI. During that time, he was struck by "unprecedented volatility" in the marketplace.

"What influences futures market price behavior?" Ruhoff said. "Our trading class is a good opportunity for students to delve into the fundamentals of what really drives price movement in a particular commodity."

Markets react to global events faster than ever before, he said.

"My dad was in the grain industry for 45 years at the country elevator level, and he could take off for three weeks' vacation and prices would move half a cent per bushel," Ruhoff said.

With such tight margins in agriculture, "it's so important that our graduates learn how to manage that risk and lock in favorable price levels to sustain their operations," he said.

What students say

Libby Blattner, a UI junior, values the "applicable knowledge" the program brings to her overall economics education.

See TRADERS, Page A13



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Then-Viterra agronomist and buyer Daniel Stenbakken watches a video of longtime Idaho wheat leader Bill Flory's grain harvest as University of Idaho students eat lunch following a tour of the canola crushing plant June 2 in Warden, Wash.

The university's agricultural commodity risk management program teaches students the inner-workings of the industry, including a class where students use real money to learn how to make trades on the grain market.

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TRADERS:

Continued from A12

"For the most part, it's been sort of an intangible idea, versus actually applying what I know about the market and everything I've learned from my classes into the real world," she said.

Blattner wants to work in commodity markets. UI's courses will help her determine her career path, she said. She grew up on a farm in Kuna, Idaho, raising seed stock for large ranchland and farming alfalfa, wheat and corn.

"If I was able to bring that knowledge back, I'd be able to help us out a little bit and make a little bit more on our bottom line than we normally do," she said.

Katie Hebdon, a recent UI graduate, plans to study ruminant nutrition at Michigan State University, feeding cattle. The program is a way to understand the markets so she could communicate with producers or make decisions about feed based on price, she said.



Courtesy Xiaoli Etienne/University of Idaho

University of Idaho students get a good look at noodles made out of Paciÿc Northwest grain at the Wheat Marketing Center June 4 during the week-long Portland Grain Trade Tour. The university's agricultural commodity risk management program works to educate students about all aspects of the grain industry.

As part of a class, "we pick a commodity and we track that commodity the entire semester, so we're following the markets, we're looking at all of the different fundamental and technical things that are changing it," she said. "Just being able to dive in and follow a market like that was super beneficial. Grains markets really impact things like fat cattle prices, milk prices and all the futures that go along with it."

Hebdon was able to track corn in one class, and then trade corn futures live in another.

Could she trade on the market by herself?

"I have a much better idea," she said. "I'm a pretty risk-averse person in general, so probably not … Instead of when we're hired on by a company that's trading and losing money there, we're learning how to lose it and go through that process and those feelings in class, in a much safer environment."

100% placement

The program has a 100% placement rate, with graduates finding positions at major international commodity brokerage, merchandising, financing and logistics firms.

Students from UI's business college are also finding jobs at companies that have an agribusiness background.

"That is a beauty of the collaboration between the two colleges, that we can offer students this exposure to these instruments and sectors," Trujillo-Barrera said.

See TRADERS, Page A14

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TRADERS:

Continued from A13

Cole Lickley graduated from the program in 2019 and now works for a food company in Blackfoot, Idaho. He uses the things he learned about risk management strategy every day as he works with dairy producers to procure milk, on his wife's family's beef ranch, or buying and selling feeder calves with his father.

"It's not Wild West trading, trying to make a bunch of money," he said. "It was like, 'We're doing this because we're trying to be profitable,' like for any ag producer or ag company dealing with commodities."

The course covered how to take risks, "when to step out of a loser and when to keep winners going."

"It made me very prepared to make decisions," Lickley said. "Knowing how much risk you're willing to take and being willing to cut losses or change directions if that decision ends up not being the correct one, or if you get new information."



Courtesy Xiaoli Etienne/University of Idaho

University of Idaho students tour United Grain's Vancouver, Wash., export terminal June 3, part of the week-long Portland Grain Trade Tour. UI's agricultural commodity risk management program gives students a leg up on their careers by giving them information and experience, including how to trade on the grain market.

Farmer perspective

It's easy to find industry decision makers eager to speak with students, longtime Idaho wheat leader Bill Flory said.

"They gleefully find time to educate and interface with the future of the industry," he said.

The program ensures a continued high-level working knowledge of trading and logistics in the Northwest, he said. It also provides a first-hand look at potential internship applicants, and employees.

"Job offers are often made," Flory said.

Flory, a farmer in the Winchester area, is an adjunct professor. He supports the Portland grain tour and speaks in the Ag Econ 3890 class, "Understanding Futures and Options."

During discussions, he shares his experiences as a farmer affected by ups and downs in the market, and what actually happens when he sells 5,000 bushels of wheat, for example.

"When I'm in some of the trading classes and the club, I have a perspective that they often don't hear, but they have a perspective I seldom get to hear," Flory said. "They're educating me as well as they're learning themselves."

Looking ahead

UI's dairy-anchored Center for Food, Agriculture and the Environment (CAFE) in Rupert is scheduled to begin milking operations in early 2026.

University and industry leaders are encouraging the ag commodity risk management program to take a central role in considering dairy risk management, including milk and inputs, Trujillo-Barrera said.

"It's good for everybody; it puts the College of Ag and the College of Business on the radar screens of businesses, because they see what these students are getting exposed to," said Flory, the Idaho wheat farmer. "

Lickley, the 2019 graduate, wholeheartedly recommends the program to future students.

"If you want to make good money in an industry where there will always be jobs, this ag finance/ag commodity world will always be there," he said. "People need to eat, people need to eat affordably, food companies need to make money, and farmers need to make money."



Three more Oregon counties request state drought emergency declarations

Capital Press

Three more Oregon counties have requested that Gov. Tina Kotek issue emergency drought declarations, according to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Union and Morrow counties in northeast Oregon and Douglas County in southern Oregon have asked for the state's assistance.

In paperwork, the counties cited economic losses to farms and ranches among other impacts.

On July 10, Oregon declared drought emergencies for Lincoln County on the Oregon Coast and Baker County in northeast Oregon.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of July 22, severe drought covered 22.4% of the state, including large portions of northwest and northeast Oregon. About 33.2% of Oregon was in moderate drought.

Only a section of Wallowa County that included less than 1% of the state's land was in extreme drought, however.

Union County is listed as 100% in severe drought.

About 35% of Morrow County was in severe drought, with another 27% in moderate drought.

Douglas County had 11.5% of its land in severe drought and the rest was in moderate drought.

Morrow County formally declared a drought on July 2, and sent a request to the Oregon Water Resources Department asking for a state declaration that same day.

"There is the potential for Morrow County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. The county is experiencing negative impacts to agriculture," wrote Morrow County commissioners.

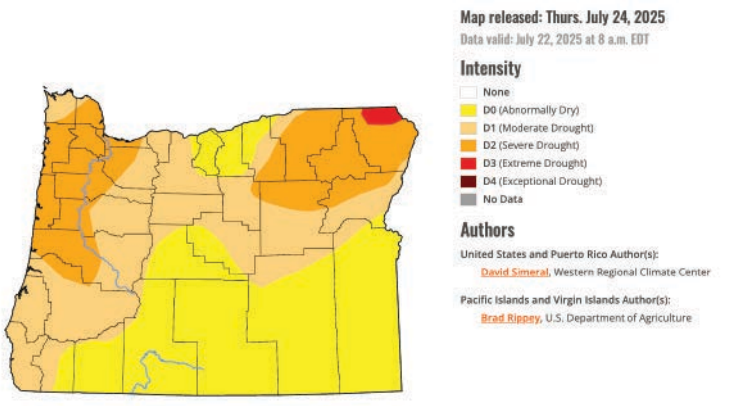
Union County locally declared a drought July 16, noting in a statement that crop yields had already been reduced and irrigation stream flows were declining rapidly.

Even though the county experienced a strong snowpack mid-winter, the spring growing season, which is critical for crops and forage, was unusually dry.

From mid-May to mid-July, the area's precipitation was less than 50% of normal.

Douglas County issued its own emergency drought order July 23, which noted the need to be responsive to the threat of wildfires and other factors.

The order said agricultural, livestock, forest products industries and related businesses are experiencing economic hardship and potential serious injury and losses resulting from extreme weather.



Courtesy image, U.S. Drought Monitor

The U.S. Drought Monitor showed severe drought covering about 22.4% of Oregon as of July 22. Only a portion of Wallowa County was in extreme drought, however.

According to a news release, conditions will result in decreased feed and pasture production, a shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for producers, including vineyards.

Douglas County stream flows were 65% of average for June, with soil moisture levels very low.

The South Umpqua River and multiple smaller tributaries have already been regulated by the state in favor of senior water rights, and more restrictions were anticipated.

"Due to dry soil and low stream flows, basin water managers expect to regulate surface water right users much earlier and to older priority dates than normal," the news release stated.

"The lack of surface water resources will negatively impact consumptive water users including irrigators, industrial and domestic users resulting in economic losses and hardship," it continued.

Groundwater also isn't expected to recharge significantly, resulting in reduced spring and well water supplies for household uses.

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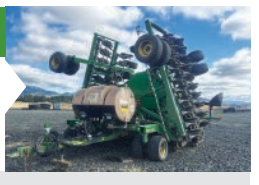
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COLFAX
SM GRAIN, PRWD, HILLCO LEVELER, HOURS: 639



Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
2003	JD	9750	SM GRAIN, PRWD, RAHCO 35% LEVLER	6487	$15,999	COLFAX
2020	MD	FD140	MACDON FD140 40' PLATFORM	N/A	$93,999	MOSCOW
2021	MD	FD145	MACDON FD145 45' PLATFORM	N/A	$101,999	COLFAX
2022	MD	FD240	MACDON FD240 40' PLATFORM	N/A	$101,999	COLFAX
2011	CA	7088H	CASE IH, 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	$630,999	MOSCOW
2023	CA	9250H	CASE IH, SM GRAIN, PRWD, DUALS, HILLCO, FD140 HEADER	408	$705,999	COLFAX

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2014 JOHN DEERE 1890 $174,999
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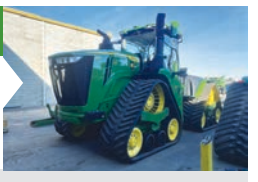
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2015	JD	1890-1910	AIR DISC DRILL, 36FT, 7.5" SPACING, 1910 CART	N/A	$174,999	TEKOA
2023	JD	N540C	AIR DRILL, 40FT, 7.5" SPACING, CCS, STARTER KIT	N/A	$242,999	MOSCOW
2022	AP	4712-SL	AGPRO 4712-AL NO-TILL DRILL	N/A	$309,999	COLFAX
2020	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' STEEL BOOM, FLOATERS	1096	$349,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	N550-1910	AIR DRILL, 50FT, 7.5" SPACING, STARTER, 1910 CART	N/A	$379,999	TEKOA
2019	JD	R4045	SPRAYER, 120' CF BOOM, EXACTAPPLY, DUALS	1014	$399,999	TEKOA

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TRACTORS

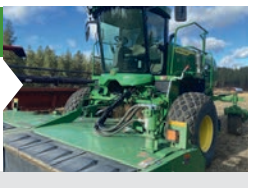
2022 JOHN DEERE 9RX590 $654,999
TEKOA
FOUR TRACK, 36" TRACKS, PTO, HOURS: 914



Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
1999	JD	9300	4WD, DUALS	9458	$49,999	MOSCOW
2010	CH	MT665C	CHALLENGER MFWD, DUALS	4627	$89,999	COLFAX
2009	JD	8345RT	TWO TRACK, 3PT/PTO, NEW IVT	8066	$126,999	MOSCOW
2011	JD	8260R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	7073	$136,999	FOUR LAKES
2013	JD	8335R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, SINGLES	6293	$186,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	JD	6175M	MFWD, PQD, TLS, SINGLES	376	$194,499	TEKOA
2015	JD	8370R	MFWD, IVT, ILS, DUAL FRT, TRIPLE REAR	4583	$199,999	COLFAX
2016	JD	8370RT	TWO TRACK, 3PT/PTO, 30" TRACKS	3183	$209,999	COLFAX
2014	JD	9510R	4WD, PST, TRIPLES	3413	$229,999	MOSCOW
2017	CA	IH380	CASE IH ROWTRAC, 24" TRACKS, CVT, 3PT/PTO	2588	$242,999	TEKOA
2021	FD	930	FENDT MFWD, CVT, DUALS	650	$298,999	TEKOA
2024	JD	7R250	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES, 700M LOADER	591	$339,999	FOUR LAKES
2023	FD	938 MT	FENDT VARIO 938 MT	1127	$349,999	COLFAX
2023	FD	943 MT	FENDT VARIO 943 MT	1338	$377,999	COLFAX
2022	FD	1151 MT	FENDT VARIO 1151 MT	1972	$384,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	8R340	MFWD, IVT, ILS, DUALS	178	$459,999	TEKOA
2023	JD	9R440	4WD, PST, HIGH FLOW, PTO, DUALS	537	$469,999	TEKOA
2021	JD	9620RX	FOUR TRACK, WIDE GAUGE, 36" TRACKS, PTO	2037	$518,999	COLFAX
2023	JD	6140M	MFWD, IVT, TLS, SINGLES	329	CALL	FOUR LAKES

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2023 JOHN DEERE W235M $184,999
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Year	Make	Model	Description	Hours	Ad Price	Location
1989	JD	375	BALER, ROUND	NA	$3,999	COLFAX
2015	JD	830	MOWER CONDITIONER 9'8" CUT WIDTH	NA	$19,999	TEKOA
2016	MD	M155E4	WINDROWER, 16' DOUBLE AUGER HEAD	2101	$65,999	TEKOA
2018	JD	L341	LARGE SQUARE BALER, TANDEM	N/A	$89,999	FOUR LAKES
2017	NH	SR260	NEW HOLLAND WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, URETHANE	1003	$119,999	FOUR LAKES
2019	JD	W260	WINDROWER, 16' HAY HEAD, STEEL CONDITIONER	1667	$136,999	FOUR LAKES



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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

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



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

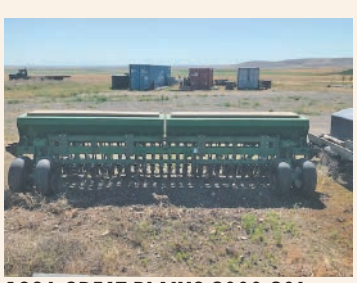


3 BALE BIG BALE FORK $4,000

DRILLS



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



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



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

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

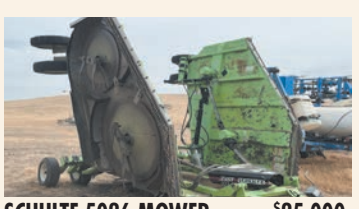


2011 APACHE AS1220, self-propelled sprayer, 1200 gal tank, 10-section 120' boom, 2634 hrs, nice machine ready to go $65,000



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

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SCHULTE 5026 MOWER.....$25,000

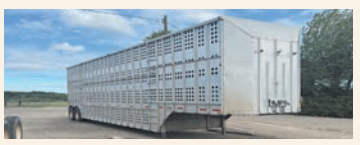


TWIN 1000 GAL ANHYDROUS TANKS W/15 HP ELECTRIC START ENGINE ON PUMP.....$6,500

TRANSPORTATION



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



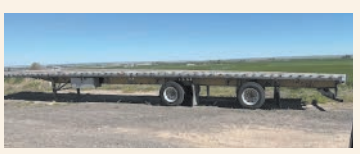
1979 MERRITT 45' ALUMINUM CATTLE TRAILER, also has hog panels, brakes 75%, floors 30%, 11×24.5 radials 50%.....$15,000



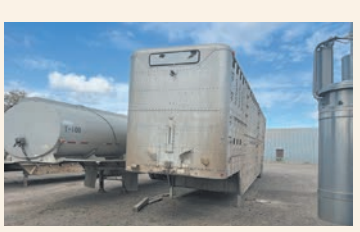
2003 STERLING L70, 20' b, h, st. 245,000 miles, CAT diesel engine, air brakes, 7 sp.....$12,500



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

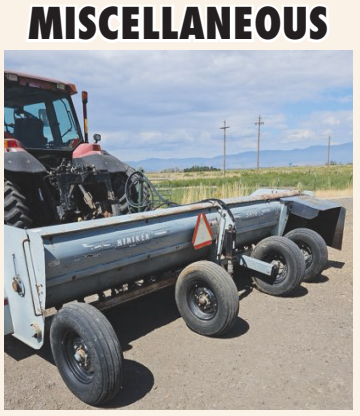


1998 WILSON ROAD BRUTE 53' SPREAD AXLE TRAILER.....$14,000



1983 48' WILSON ALUMINUM CATTLE TRAILER, floors 50%, brakes 50%, 11×24.5 radials 50%.....$10,000

MISCELLANEOUS



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

HARVEST



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



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



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



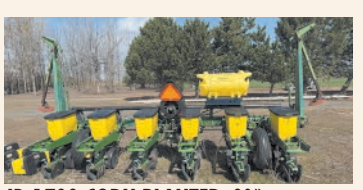
2009 JD 9770 W/2017 30' DRAPER HDR & CART, 4WD, 3693 hrs ..$110,000



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



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



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



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

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, 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**

'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**

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

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

'23 CASE IH STEIGER 470 AFS CONNECT, Luxury Performance Cab, PowerDrive, Engine Brake, Cold Weather Starting Aid, True Ground Speed Radar, RH Armrest, AFS Pro 1200, High-Capacity Pump, Power Beyond Supply & Return, Performance Lighting, Dual Beacon, LED 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**

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

UNDER 150-HP

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

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

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DRILLS

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

'15 CASEIH FH700, 60'x12", High Floatation, 550LB Trips, 5.5" Rubber Press Wheels, Air TBT, Double Shoot **$145,000**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BALERS

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

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

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

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**

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**

'21 Hillco HC1010, 84' Width, 16 Bar Flex Harrow, Premium Tire Package **$65,900**

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 ..... **$69,900**
Call for more details!

HAY

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

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

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

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

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

GRAIN CARTS

'93 BRENT 772, 750 Bushell, PTO Drive, Diamond Tread, 30.51-32, Tarp Kit, Consigned **$20,000**

SWATHERS

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

SPRAYERS/APPLICATORS

'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 **$294,000**

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

'17 CASE IH 4440, 3200 Hrs, 120' Boom, 7 Section, 20" Spacing, Luxury Surveyor Cab, Active Suspension, 280/90R46 Wheels, Manual Adj Mirrors, 3" Front Fill, SS Tank, CR 11 Single Nozzle Body, Boom Flush Valve, AFS 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**

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

FLEXI-COIL S67XL, 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, G5 Plus Command Center Display, LSW 800/55F46 Floats, Set of Skinny's and Fenders to Match **$569,000**

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

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

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

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

HILLSIDE COMBINES

(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**

'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**

'13 CaseIH 8230, 2455 Sep Hrs, Hillco Leveler, 40' Unloading Auger, Independent Cross Auger Control, Magna-Cut Fine Cut Chopper, Manual Folding Grain Tank Extensions, 4WD, Deluxe Cab, Pro 700 Display **$159,900**

'21 CaseIH 9250, 1365 Sep Hrs, Luxury Cab, AM/FM/BT Radio, Pro 700, Large Color Touch Screen, Autoguidance Nav Controller, Hillco Lvlr, Command Automation, Power+ CVT Drive w/Feedrate, Yield Monitor, Harvest Command w/Cameras, Auto Cleaning Fan, Block Heater, Independent Cross Auger Control, Diff Lock ..... **Call NP for Pricing**

'22 CaseIH 9250, 1456 Hrs, Leather Seat, Distance Lights, Hillco Lvlr, Nav Controller, Automation, Yeild Monitor, Power+ CVT Drive w/Feedrate, Ext Wear Rtr w/Spikes, Autoclean Fan, 50' Unloader Ext Header, Pivoting Spout, Upper cross Auger Control, Fine Cut Chopper, Engine Block Heater ..... **Call NP for Pricing**

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 **$159,900**

'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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File photo

A federal judge in Montana says the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service shouldn't assume Idaho and Montana will keep their commitments to not hunt wolves to extinction.

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Judge opens door to wider federal management of wolves

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

A federal judge ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to take another look at whether Montana and Idaho can be trusted to manage wolves.

U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy vacated Aug. 5 USFW's finding that wolves in those states, plus Eastern Washington, Eastern Oregon and Wyoming are not endangered or threatened.

The ruling doesn't immediately turn over wolf management to the federal government in those areas, but it will force USFWS to reconsider its finding. Although the ruling affects three other states, Molloy took aim at Idaho and Montana.

Molloy was skeptical that those states, which have the most wolves, will keep their commitments to not hunt wolves to extinction. USFWS "failed to recognize the polarizing nature of wolf management in Montana and Idaho," Molloy ruled.

"The service did not

See WOLVES, Page B3



WOLVES:

Continued from C2

consider how these negative public attitudes, undisputedly expressed in the legislative bodies governing Montana and Idaho, would impact the states' commitments to maintain minimum wolf populations," wrote Molloy, a Bill Clinton appointee.

Efforts to obtain comment from USFWS were not immediately successful. The agency has 60 days to appeal.

Wolf advocates cheered the decision.

"With this court ruling comes the hope of true recovery across the West," said Collette Adkins, carnivore conservation director of the Center for Biological Diversity, one of the groups that brought the lawsuit.

Wolf advocates petitioned USFWS to put Rocky Mountain wolves on the endangered species list. USFWS rejected the petition in 2024, projecting the region will have a healthy population of wolves even if Idaho and Montana reduce their numbers.

USFWS obtained commitments that both states would maintain at least 150 wolves. Idaho's management plan calls for keeping 500 wolves, while Montana set a goal of 450.

Molloy said USFWS failed to address criticism that both states overestimate their wolf populations. USFWS also failed to consider whether the states would call off hunting in time or the potential impact of illegal harvesting, he said.

USFWS estimated the Rocky Mountains had 2,682 wolves at the end of 2022. Even if Idaho and Montana greatly increased hunting and a catastrophic disease struck, there was little risk wolves would be removed from the region, according to the agency.

Under state management, state wildlife officials can use lethal control to curb attacks on livestock. Under federal management, lethal control is not an option.

Wireworm problem greatly reduced, longtime WSU researcher says

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Wireworms are no longer as big a problem for farmers as they have been over the last decade and a half, a longtime Washington State University researcher says.

"They can still rear their ugly heads, they still need to be managed, you still need to be paying attention to what you're doing crop rotation wise and seed treatments," Aaron Esser, regional extension agronomist and WSU Adams County Extension director, told Capital Press. "They're never going away. As soon as you start ignoring it, they'll come back and bite you. But you don't need to put as much intense management into it."

Esser said during WSU's final Wheat Beat podcast Aug. 4 that he is no longer actively working on wireworms, following what he hopes was his last wireworm presentation during a Pacific Region Entomology Society of America meeting in 2024.

Esser credits improved management, particularly increased rates of neonicotinoid insecticides and new Group 30 meta-diamide insecticides, with minimizing wireworms as a pest in cereal grains.

Farmers switched from growing continuous wheat rotations.

See WIREWORM, Page B4





Matthew Weaver/Capital Press file

Aaron Esser, Washington State University Extension regional educator and Adams County Extension director, in a mustard stand on WSU's Wilke Farm in Davenport, Wash., in June 2023. After 17 years of studying wireworms in cereal grains, Esser says he is no longer actively working on the pest, crediting changes in farm management, increased neonicitinoid rates and new insecticides with helping reduce the problem.

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WIREWORM:

Continued from B3

"Just the increased awareness by growers I think was beneficial," Esser said.

The combination of approaches has "really helped hopefully put that pest to bed," Esser said.

Esser says he still answers phone calls about wireworms and received several text messages about them this spring, mostly about how often to use the chemicals.

History

Esser first started his wireworm project in 2008.

"It was a problem 30-something years ago before lindane was brought onto the market," he said, noting many scientific articles about wireworms were published in the 1950s and 1960s.

"As soon as lindane hit, the scientific journal publications went silent on wireworms for a long time."

Lindane is a chemical used both as an agricultural pesticide and treatment for human infestations of lice and scabies, but it's banned or restricted in many countries due to health concerns.

The Environmental Protection Agency in 2006 ruled that the health and environmental risks of using lindane were greater than any benefits, and it was phased out of agricultural use.

The wireworms returned when lindane went away, and growers were relying on neonicotinoid insecticides instead, Esser said.

Esser focused on helping growers identify the wireworms and take an interest in their management, as well as seed dealers and industry support.

Esser believes one field trial in particular showed the industry that the recommended amount of neonicotinoids were not adequate to address the problem.

Farmers were upset with their seed dealers because they'd apply the higher, more expensive wireworm treatment rate, Esser recalled.

"Nothing's worse than when you pay for the extra and then I come out and tell you you have wireworm damage," he said.

See WIREWORM, Page B5



Courtesy Aaron Esser/Washington State University Extension

Changes in management have reduced wireworm problems in cereal grains, Washington State University Extension regional educator Aaron Esser says. "As soon as you start ignoring it, they'll come back and bite you," Esser says. "But you don't need to put as much intense management into it."

WIREWORM:

Continued from B4

"I think it really helped the industry overall understand how big the issue was."

Pantyhose traps

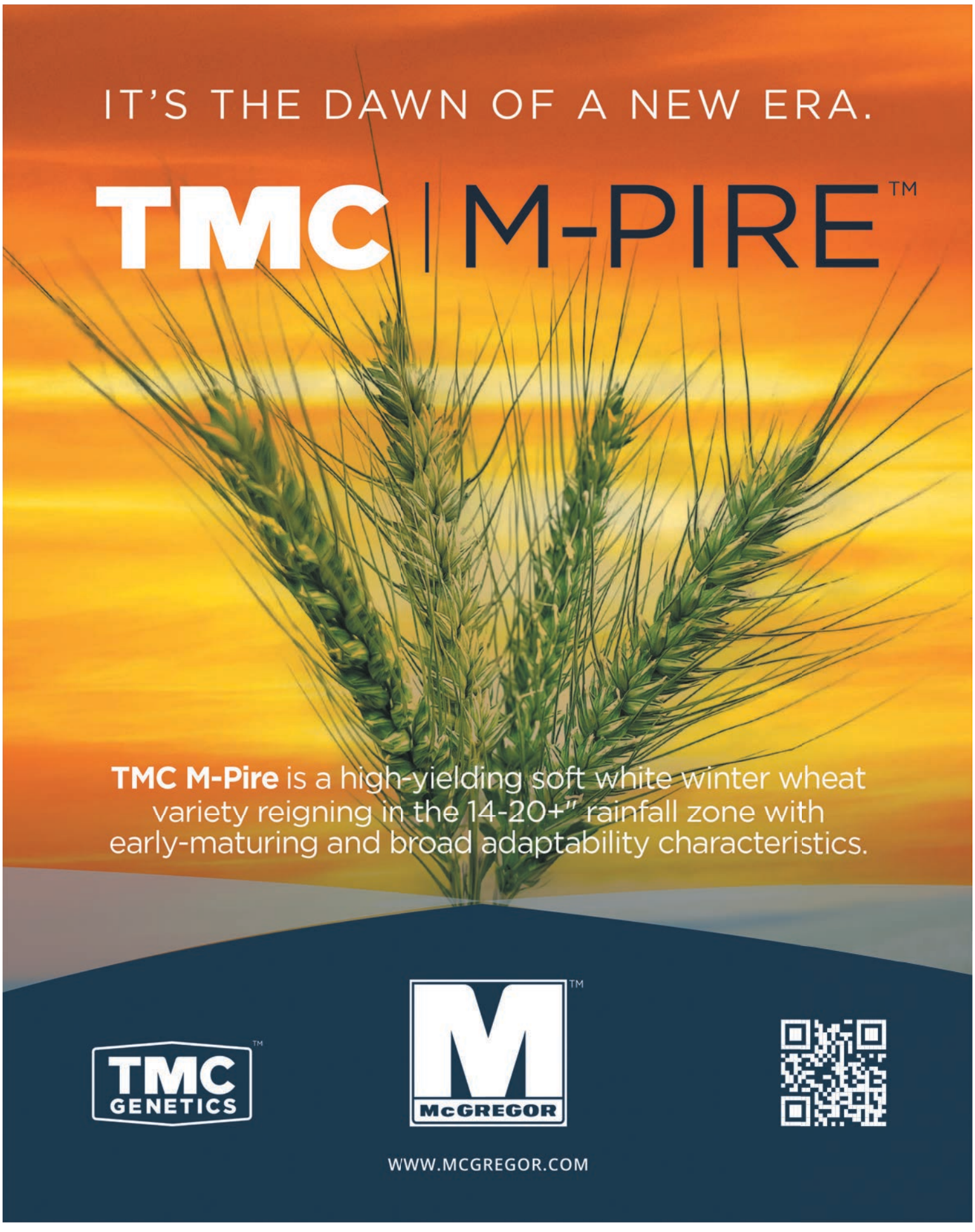
Wireworms present a unique challenge because of their variability.

"You look at one spot, you can find them, and then you go four feet over, and they're not there," Esser said.

So Esser developed "modified solar bait traps," using pantyhose in order to estimate how many wireworms growers had in their field, and to monitor the worms in his treatments, to assess changes in wireworm dynamics in the field.

He'd read about researchers using a mixture of wheat, corn and water to lure the wireworms, but couldn't use his initial results. Then he read about researchers using oatmeal in pantyhose, which meant

See WIREWORM, Page B6



WIREWORM:

Continued from B5

every treatment used the same items and could be assessed.

"We probably went through a thousand pairs of pantyhose," he said.

The future

It's always possible wireworms could re-surge, or the most useful chemicals could go away, Esser said.

"That's always a concern, but at this stage, hopefully it will be someone else's issue, not mine, is my hope and guess," he said, noting the first extension agent in Adams County was working on wireworm problems in fields in 1918. "I'm sure the problem will be an issue again in 100 years, or 30 years."

Esser has shifted his focus to other issues in recent years. Herbicide-resistant weeds, fertilizer and nutrient management and costs are "more relevant, more important today than wireworms."

He says he jokes about not being a big fan of entomology, the study of insects, as an agronomist.

"I have passion for stuff that benefits growers, that's why I worked on the wireworm project in the first place," he said.



Library of Congress

Washington state farmers Tsukasa Sakuma and Torao Hayno drive a tractor on a farm in Marengo, Illinois, after being released from an internment camp.



When U.S. agriculture mobilized for war

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

World War II ended 80 years ago this August and winning it took everyone pulling together to solve logistical problems, like getting the green beans picked in Marion County, Oregon.

As the Allies liberated Paris in the summer of 1944, beans were ripening in the Willamette Valley. With so many people at war or working at defense plants, farm hands were scarce everywhere.

New farm equipment was in short supply, too. Manufacturing of tanks took priority over tractors. Nevertheless, farmers had their orders — all-out production to help win the war.

Businessmen, women and teens from cities were recruited to work on farms. Prisoners of war got 80 cents a day for picking crops under armed supervision.

The U.S. signed its first farm labor agreement with Mexico. Mexico agreed to send workers. The U.S. promised decent housing — no more than three workers in a 12-by-14 room.

Meanwhile, "something unique" was up in the fields around Salem, newspapers reported. Women in towns boarded buses, styled as "Housewives Specials," to go to farms to pick beans.

The buses left late in the morning so the women could see their families off to work and school, wash the dishes and make the beds. The buses left early enough in the afternoon so the women could get home to cook dinner. In between, more than 500 women "cleaned up acre after acre of beans."

"The housewives have operated in two dozen or more fields, actually saving the crop in most cases when another day or two would have meant an overmature and wasted crop," The Redmond Spokesman reported.

The U.S. mobilized its industrial might during World War II. Not as well remembered is that the U.S. mobilized agriculture, too. Food was a weapon — "fully as important in its way as guns or planes or tanks" — President Franklin Roosevelt said.

The Nazis weaponized food, too. German agriculture chief Herbert Backe schemed to starve millions of Russians by commandeering food.

See WAR, Page B8

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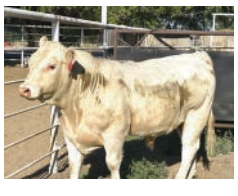
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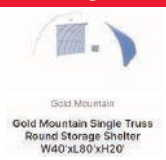
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Victory gardeners hold up their vegetables. The number of farms under 10 acres soared during World War II.

WAR:

Continued from B6

In contrast, the U.S. set out to be the food pantry of democracy, as well as its arsenal. "We are using food to earn the friendship of people in liberated areas and to serve as a promise and an encouragement to peoples who are not yet free," Roosevelt said.

The demand was endless. Food shortages temporarily worsened with military success as the U.S. fed liberated people in Sicily, Italy, France, the Balkans and Asia. "It was never possible to provide all the food that those dependent on our production would have liked," wrote Marvin Jones, head of the War Food Administration, in a post-war report.

Still, agricultural production increased every year of the war, even though farmers faced severe shortages of labor and equipment. Farmers worked longer hours, shared tractors with neighbors and skipped maintenance projects to grow more food and fiber.

The combination of support prices and production goals — telling the farmers what was needed and guaranteeing minimum prices — led to an unprecedented expansion of agricultural production, according to the War Food Administration.

The war rejuvenated agriculture after the hard 1920s and '30s. The number of farms under 10 acres soared as ground was put back into production. Mid-sized farms grew.

The value of farm property increased by 45% between 1940 and 1945. Net farm incomes in 1944 nearly tripled pre-war incomes. By 1944, production was 38% higher than before the war.

"Largely as a result of wartime conditions, the agriculture of our nation underwent great changes between 1940 and 1945," according to the 1945 Census of Agriculture.

The U.S. boasted it had the best fed Army in the world and allocated food to Allies and liberated populations. Even though meat shortages dragged on even after the war, U.S. civilians had more food during the war than before, according to the War Food Administration.

"When the history of this war is written, one of the truly astounding chapters will be the story of how our farmers and ranchers overcame all obstacles to produce the needed food supplies," Jones wrote.

See WAR, Page B9



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USDA National Agricultural Library

A comic strip urges merchants, women and teens to work on farms.

WAR:

Continued from B8

Waging the war on farms

The wartime demand for all-out production came as farmers were still transitioning from horses to tractors. According to the 1940 Census of Agriculture, a higher percentage of farms in Washington had telephones, 32%, than tractors, 20%.

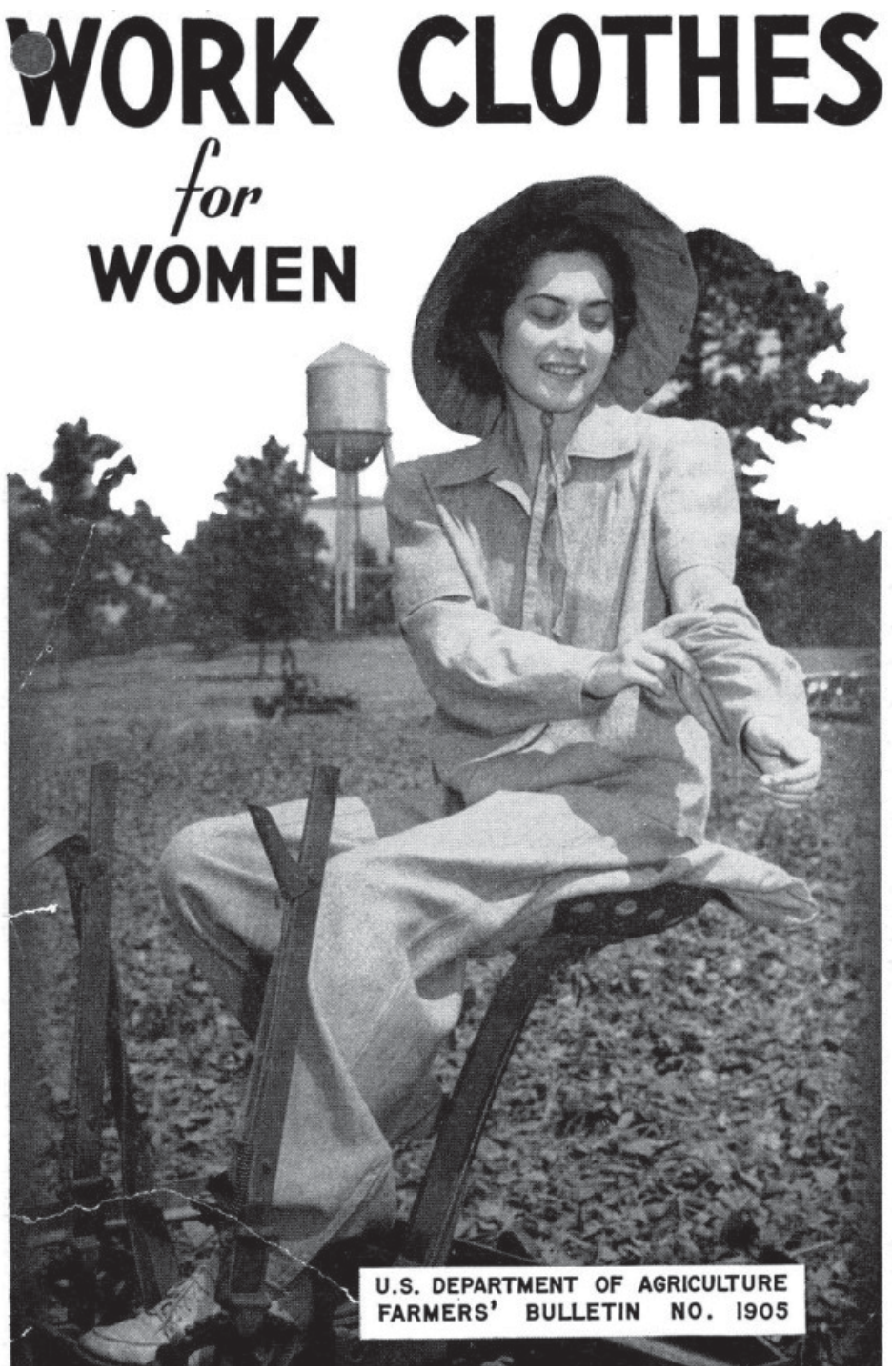
The war made new farm machinery harder to get. The War Production Board diverted steel, motors, factories and workers to making armaments. By 1943, the production of farm machinery was about one-quarter of what it was in 1940.

Sen. Harry Truman, a former Missouri farmer and future president, scolded a production board official at a hearing, saying farmers didn't have enough equipment or repair parts to do the job expected of them.

See WAR, Page B10







USDA National Agricultural Library

A USDA bulletin shows what the stylish farmworker was wearing during the war.

WAR:

Continued from B9

The next year, farm machinery production approximately doubled. In a post-war report, the War Production Board acknowledged the initial cutbacks to new farm machinery was inconsistent with the demand to produce an unprecedented amount of food.

The labor shortage was an even bigger problem. By mid-1942, 2.8 million farmers and farmworkers had left to serve in the military or work in defense industries, the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service estimated.

The government formed the U.S. Crop Corps to recruit city residents to spend summers or vacations doing farm work. A USDA handbook counseled farmers to go easy the first day or two "until they get toughened up."

The same handbook encouraged the novices: "You'll be soft at first, but you'll soon do a full job — because you have the right spirit."

The USDA recruited teen-agers 14 to 17 to be Victory Farm Volunteers. The pitch emphasized physical fitness (good for sports in the fall) and patriotism.

"Farm work is war work. Producing food is the most vital war job young people can do," according to a recruiting brochure.

The Women's Land Army was the name given to locally organized campaigns to recruit women to work on farms. All together, 3 million civilian men, women and teenagers were placed on farms in 1944.

Mexico sent 52,131 farmworkers to the U.S. in 1943 and 62,191 the following year. Mexican workers reported to the national stadium in Mexico City for physical exams before being sent to the U.S. California, Oregon and Washington were the top three destinations.

An unknown number of workers came illegally. When the Immigration and Naturalization Service moved to deport them, "some of the growers and growers organizations in the border states protested strongly," the War Food Administration reported.

By 1945, some 122,000 POWs were working on farms. After the war ended, Canyon County, Idaho, farmers lobbied for German POWs to stick around for the upcoming harvest.

"There is a big job to be done in peas, beets and other crops after June," a farmer said.

Japanese-Americans in internment camps demonstrated their loyalty by working on farms; others demonstrated it in military

See WAR, Page B11





WAR:

Continued from B11

uniforms. Conscientious objectors were put to work on farms.

Besides Mexico, the U.S. officially recruited guest workers from Jamaica, Canada, Barbados, the Bahamas and Newfoundland.

President Truman announced Japan's surrender on Aug. 14, 1945. Farmers had produced more than thought possible and did it in the face of serious wartime difficulties, according to the War Food Administration.

"Their production record has been magnificent … and the nation owes them a debt of gratitude," Jones wrote.

Hostilities were over, but the labor shortage wasn't, not immediately. As the U.S. occupied Japan in 1945, beans were ripening in the Willamette Valley. "Housewives Urged to Help Save Bean Crop," a newspaper headline read.

Patriotism and sacrifice were still in order, though some warned of complacency. A newspaper quoted a woman going to pick beans:

" 'Women who have sons returning from the fighting fronts should keep faith with those who have given their lives,' asserted one war mother whose boy is not coming back."

Trump makes deals and hikes tariffs as deadline arrives

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

President Trump announced a series of trade moves as the deadline neared for other countries to make deals or potentially face higher tariffs on goods exported to the United States.

In a combination of executive orders and social media posts, Trump set reciprocal tariffs, hiked tariffs on Canada, outlined a deal with South Korea and called a 90-day truce with Mexico to continue negotiations.

"We are very busy in the White House today (July 31) working on Trade Deals," Trump posted. "I have spoken to the Leaders of many countries, all of whom want to make the United States 'extremely happy.' "

See TRUMP, Page B12



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

A ship stands by to carry cargo at the Port of Tacoma. President Trump announced trade moves in a rapid-ÿre fashion as the deadline for countries to make deals neared.

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TRUMP:

Continued from B911

Trump set an Aug. 1 deadline for countries to make deals. The White House released a statement grouping trading partners into three categories: those who made deals, those who negotiated but haven't submitted satisfactory terms and those who didn't negotiate.

An executive order listed reciprocal tariffs that will go into effect in seven days. The tariffs include ones already announced, such as 10% for the United Kingdom, and 15% for Japan and the European Union. Higher tariffs include 20% on Taiwan and 25% on India.

The U.S. and Mexico will maintain current tariffs for at least 90 days. Trump also said Mexico has agreed to immediately terminate non-tariff barriers.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said at a press conference that the agreement maintains the status quo.

"The agreement we have did not involve any additional action on the part of Mexico," she said.

Trump and Sheinbaum agreed the phone call was cordial.

"It has to be said, President Trump treats us with respect in all the phone calls we've had," Sheinbaum said. "We have a very good situation in this new international order since President Trump took office in the United States."

Trump ratcheted up fentanyl-related tariffs to 35% from 25% on Canada, the second-largest importer of U.S. farm goods. The higher tariff went into effect Aug. 1. Trump said in an executive order Canada has not done enough to stop illegal drugs from crossing the northern border.

Trump also was displeased by Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announcing that Canada will recognize Palestinian statehood.

"That will make it very hard for us to make a Trade Deal with them," Trump posted.

The United States-Mexico-Canada trade agreement still holds. The 35% tariff won't apply to Canadian agricultural goods and other products covered in the agreement.

Carney said in a statement that Canada has beefed up border controls and that Canada will seek to become more economically self-sufficient.

U.S. agriculture exported $8.5 billion worth of farm goods to South Korea in 2024, making up nearly 5% of all U.S. farm exports. South Korea will increase investments in the U.S., buy more U.S. energy and eliminate tariffs on U.S. products, Trump said. The U.S. will levy a 15% tariff on goods from South Korea.

"It is also agreed that South Korea will be completely OPEN TO TRADE with the United States, and that they will accept American products, including Cars and Trucks, Agriculture, etc." Trump posted.

The White House did not release more details about the deal. Yonhap News Agency, a South Korean news service, reported that Korean negotiators said the deal will not remove non-monetary barriers to U.S. beef exports.

Korea prohibits beef from cattle older than 30 months to guard against mad cow disease. U.S. meat exporters have identified the age limit as a trade barrier.



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Farm groups say trade deals are only a starting point

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

President Trump's trade deals apparently won't immediately sweep aside non-tariff barriers that frustrate U.S. agriculture, but farm groups say they are optimistic further negotiations eventually will remove obstacles and open up foreign markets.

Trade deals announced by President Trump have focused on tariffs and commitments by trading partners to invest in America and buy U.S. products, such as natural gas, ethanol, airplanes, military equipment and farm goods.

White House "fact sheets" describe the deals as frameworks to continue talks, including over removing non-tariff barriers. The barriers include

See TRADE, Page B14



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

A ship stands by to carry cargo at the Port of Tacoma. President Trump announced trade moves in a rapid-fi e fashion as the deadline for countries to make deals neared.

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TRADE:

Continued from B13

long-running disputes with other countries over pesticides, livestock medications, the environment and red tape.

U.S. beef's relationship with the European Union has been "40 years of frustration," National Cattlemen's Beef Association director of government relations Kent Bacus said. The non-tariff barriers make up a long list and will take time to address, he said.

"These are negotiations in progress. These deals are progress reports on where we are in the negotiations," he said. "I think there's been a lot of progress."

Trump's April 2 tariff threats have yielded trade deals of varying degree of detail with China, Japan, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the European Union.

The European Commission described the U.S.-EU trade deal as a "political agreement" that was not legally binding, but was a starting point for further negotiations.

As a start, the U.S. will levy a 15% tariff on most EU goods. That was better than paying a higher tariff and waging a job-losing trade war with the U.S., EU Trade Commissioner Maros Sefcovic said at a press conference July 29.

"It's quite obvious that the world which was there before the second of April is gone," he said. "We simply need to adjust."

What's unknown is whether trading partners, particularly the EU, will bend on non-monetary matters, including green policies. For example, the EU plans to require beef importers to prove they aren't involved in deforestation.

The beef industry says deforestation isn't an issue for U.S. cattle production, but that the EU rule would be one more aggravating obstacle.

Cattlemen's groups also object to EU rules on antibiotics and hormones. Groups representing fruit and vegetable growers complain that few pesticides can meet EU standards.

The U.S. and EU intend to continue negotiations over non-tariff barriers affecting agricultural products, according to the White House.

"We were pleased to see it mentioned in the fact sheet," U.S. Meat Export Federation spokesman John Herath said. "We don't know the details, so we don't know what the result will be."

The U.S. potato industry has been seeking access for fresh potatoes to Japan for 30 years. U.S. groups claim that to protect its farmers Japan has violated trade obligations. The U.S.-Japan framework committed Japan to buying more U.S. rice, corn, soybeans, fertilizer and ethanol, but was silent on potatoes.

"At this point we're not seeing that it was part of the conversation," said Matt Harris, Washington Potato Commission director of government affairs.

"It does give me encouragement that this administration is actually looking at brokering trade agreements," he said. "That's not what we had seen in past administrations."

Indonesia committed to addressing barriers to U.S. agricultural products, including exempting U.S. farm goods from import licenses that the California Citrus Quality Council said are cumbersome to acquire and discourage imports.

The council may know more about the impact of the agreement when California growers start exporting citrus in the fall, the council's president, Jim Cranney, said.

"We're hoping these agreements will include the provisions we were asking for," he said. "For now, we don't have too much information about it, but we're optimistic it will work out."

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Environmental lawsuit again challenges red tree vole finding

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Several environmental groups are challenging the federal government's determination that red tree voles in Oregon do not warrant threatened or endangered status.

The Center for Biological Diversity and three other nonprofits have filed a lawsuit claiming the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service unlawfully ignored the best available science in reaching its "not warranted" finding last year.

The plaintiffs argue the agency skewed the data regarding the resiliency of the red tree vole's distinct population segment, or DPS, along the Oregon Coast, "arbitrarily and capriciously" minimizing its chances of extinction.

"Contrary to the unduly rosy picture painted by the Service, the Oregon Coast DPS's remaining disconnected and isolated populations face serious threats to their survival," according to the complaint.

A representative of the Fish and Wildlife Service said the agency does not comment on pending litigation.

Legal controversy has long swirled around the Endangered Species Act status of the red tree vole, which favors the canopy of older coniferous forests in western Oregon and California.

For nearly 20 years, environmental advocates have been pressing the Fish and Wildlife Service to extend ESA protections to the "distinct population segment" of red tree voles along Oregon's northern coast.

Beginning in 2011, the federal biologists agreed seven times that threatened or endangered protections for the rodent were "warranted," based on the loss of old growth forests and other factors, but ultimately decided that such a listing was "precluded" by higher-priority species.

However, the agency changed its mind in late 2019 and found that listing the species was not warranted in the first place, largely because existing "habitat clusters" would be sufficient to ensure the rodent's survival.

The Fish and Wildlife Service withdrew that conclusion for reconsideration to settle an environmental lawsuit, but reaffirmed the same "not warranted" deter-

See VOLE, Page B15

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Photo by Stephen DeStefano/USGS

A red tree vole is shown in this U.S. Geological Survey photo.

VOLE:

Continued from B14

mination in 2024, again finding the red tree vole has adequate habitat availability to avoid extinction.

The plaintiffs have now objected to the agency's methodology in reaching that conclusion, arguing that it relies on inflated estimates of red tree vole viability in several "geographic units" despite habitat fragmentation and the increasing risk of wildfire.

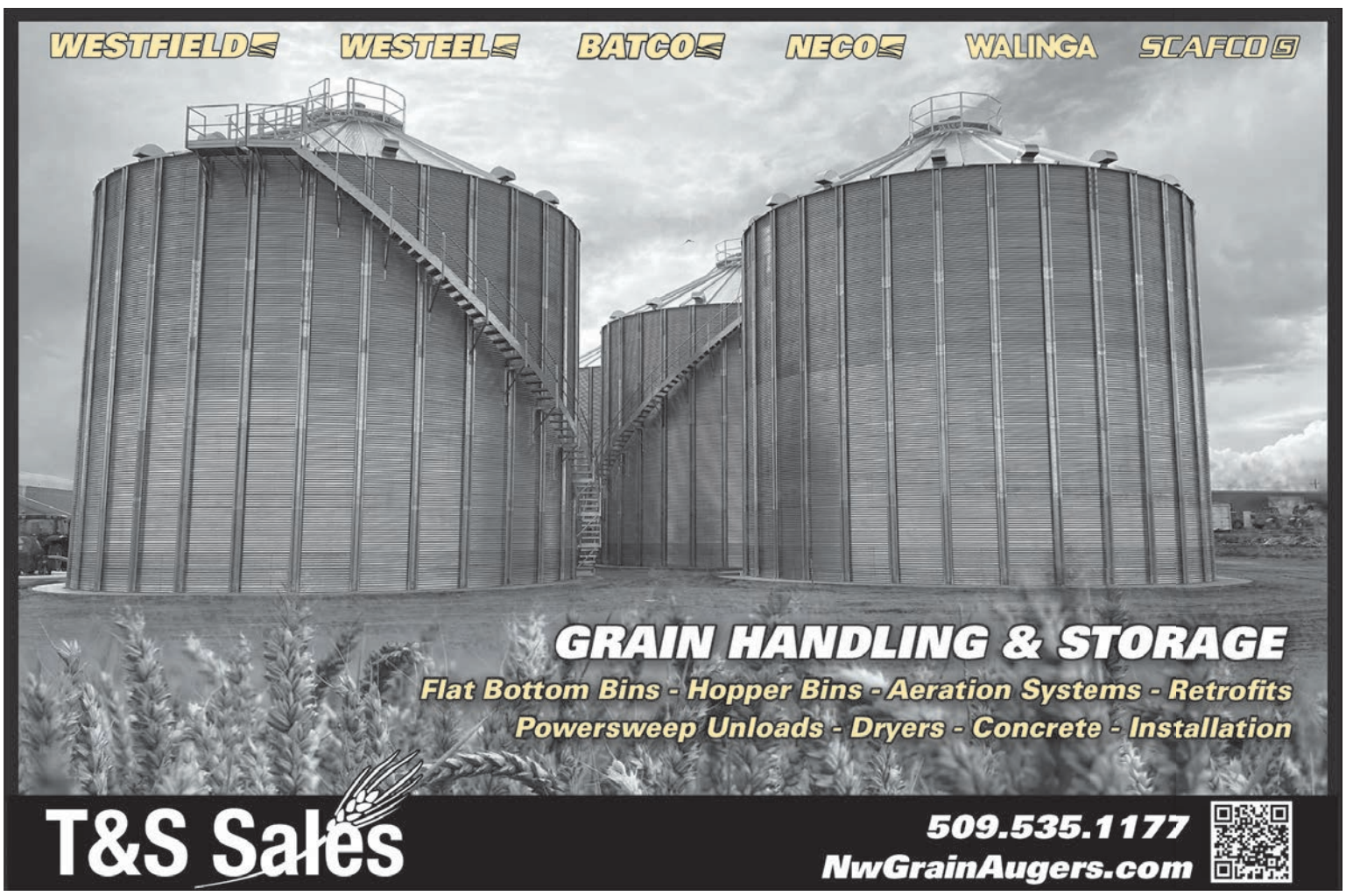
"Despite these threats, the Service determined that — even with the projected extirpation of several geographic units and an overall decline in the Oregon Coast DPS's condition in the foreseeable future — the DPS would retain multiple geographic units in moderate condition such that it did not warrant listing as a threatened species," the complaint said.

The lawsuit has asked a federal judge to declare the "not warranted" determination is invalid and order the Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct another yearlong review of the rodent's candidacy for ESA protections. The plaintiffs also seek compensation for their litigation costs.

In the past, efforts by environmental advocates to list the red tree vole have concerned the timber industry, which worried that threatened or endangered status for the species was likely to result in additional regulation of private forestlands.

However, a federal judge denied a request by timber groups to voluntarily intervene in the previous lawsuit over the rodent's "not warranted" finding, ruling the Fish and Wildlife Service would adequately represent their interests in the case. The judge also said the timber groups would be able to weigh in on any potential regulations if a listing for the red tree vole does occur.





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Federal report sees climate change benefit ng U.S. agriculture



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Rising levels of carbon dioxide stimulate photosynthesis, making crops grow and benefiting U.S. agriculture, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Energy. The report contradicts findings by the International Panel on Climate Change and the 5th National Climate Assessment.

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

A U.S. Department of Energy report disputes that climate change will devastate agriculture, arguing that carbon dioxide stimulates plant growth and is "greening" the planet.

The report largely contradicts the most-recent assessment by the United Nations' International Panel on Climate Change and the Fifth National Climate Assessment, a congressionally mandated study last published in 2023.

While those assessments warned climate change will make food less plentiful and more expensive, the new report produced by the Trump administration sees a higher level of carbon increasing crop yields.

"There is reason to conclude that, on balance, climate change has been and will continue to be neutral or beneficial for most U.S. agriculture," the report states.

The report, titled "A Critical Review of Impacts of Greenhouse Gas Emissions in the U.S.," takes a wide-ranging look at the sometimes conflicting research on climate change.

The report concludes that predictions about future temperatures are shaky, wildfires are not more common than in the 1980s, there were more "hot days" in the 1930s than now and that U.S. policy can be expected to make "undetectably small" impacts on the global climate.

"Climate change is real, and it deserves attention. But it is not the greatest threat facing humanity. That distinction belongs to global energy poverty," Energy Secretary Chris Wright wrote in the introduction.

The Energy Department's chapter on agriculture is optimistic, stressing how carbon dioxide aids photosynthesis, enabling plants to grow and use water more efficiently.

In one study cited in the report, Columbia University researchers Charles Taylor and Wolfram Schlenker looked at carbon data, county-level crop yields and tried to account for weather and other factors that affect yields.

They concluded carbon emissions boosted U.S. crop production since 1940 by 50% to 80%. For every part per million increase in carbon dioxide, corn yields increased by 0.5%, soybeans by 0.6% and wheat by 0.8%, according to their study.

In raising its estimate of the "social costs" of carbon, the Biden Environmental Protection Agency cited a 2017 study that projected widespread declining crop yields. A subsequent study found fault with the finding and concluded crop yields would stay steady, even if the earth warmed another 5 degrees Celsius.

One study reported that between 25% to 50% of the earth got "greener" between 1982 and 2011, while 4% got "browner." The study attributed 70% of the greening to rising carbon levels.

Another study asserted that scientists have been underestimating how much carbon dioxide stimulates plant growth.

"If true it would indicate that global models of the socioeconomic impacts of rising CO2 have understated the benefits to crops and agriculture," the report states.

There is evidence carbon-induced biomass makes plants less nutritious. Vitamins and new plant varieties could help make up the deficiencies, according to the report.

The Energy Department's July 29 release of the report coincided with the Trump EPA proposing to rescind a 2009 finding that climate change was endangering public health. The finding was a prerequisite to EPA rules regulating greenhouse gases.

The report was written by five climate scientists: John Christy, Judith Curry, Steven E. Koonin, Ross McKitrick and Roy W. Spencer.

The Energy Department invited comments on the report. "Honest scrutiny and scientific transparency should be at the heart of our policy-making," Wright wrote.

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Courtesy Cambria Nofziger via Oregon Farm Bureau

Grass seed is harvested on an Oregon farm. Seed breeders want to restrict the use of "variety not specified" on seed labels, a move growers say would end their ability to sell proprietary seed not accepted by dealers.

Breeders propose restricting 'variety not specified' grass seed labels

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Turf grass breeders want to restrict the labeling of grass seed as "variety not specified," which critics expect will disrupt Oregon's farm industry without solving its underlying problems.

Currently, when seed dealers reject proprietary cultivars for failing to meet contract specification, farmers often sell the grass seed as "variety not specified" to recoup their production expenses.

However, selling grass seed as "variety not specified" deprives turf grass breeders of royalty payments for cultivars they've developed, which has spurred a proposal to end the practice.

"By requiring the variety name to be listed on all seed labels, this change would discourage intellectual property theft and ensure that breeders receive the recognition and compensation they deserve for their hard work," according to the proposal from the Turfgrass Breeders Association nonprofit.

Aside from the negative impact on breeders, consumers are also harmed by the "loophole" of labeling grass seed as "variety not specified," the nonprofit said.

For example, consumers may be unaware the seed contains an endophyte fungus, which helps grass resist certain pests but is toxic to livestock, according to the proposal, which calls for revising federal seed regulations.

Requiring accurate labeling of grass seed would also encourage consumers to pay a premium for high-quality cultivars rather than make their decisions entirely based on price, the nonprofit said.

See GRASS SEED, Page C10



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1997 GRADALL 534C-10 TELEHANDLER
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$17,500

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$16,500

1997 FORD SERVICE TRUCK,
250hp 3126 Cat, 9spd.,33K gvw, Locker, AC, PS, AB, tilt, cruise, 8,500# IMT Crane, 11' IMT body, hyd. outriggers, 40cfm compressor, 100gal. slip tank, new 11r 22.5 tires and wheels, 141k miles, clean excellent driving truck
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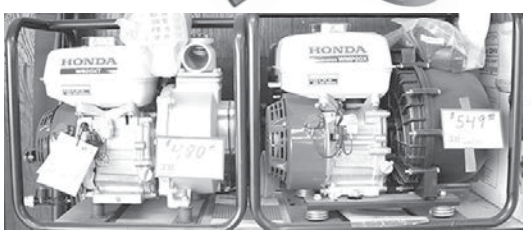


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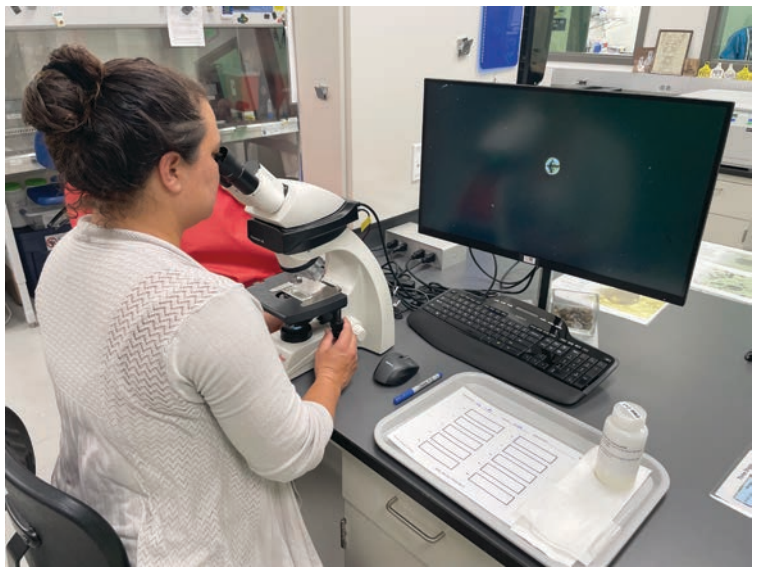

Jakob Renneke


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Derek McCroskey



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

Michelle Jakaitis, Idaho State Department of Agriculture bacteriologist and parasitologist, evaluates water samples for quagga mussel larvae July 29, 2025, in part of the ISDA Animal Health Laboratory.

ISDA animal health lab joins national diagnostic network

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture Animal Health Laboratory has been accepted as a member of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, a designation that state officials expect will benefit the state's dairy and cattle industries.

NAHLN is a nationally coordinated system of over 60 federal, state and university-affiliated laboratories.

The network of animal disease diagnostic laboratories provides ongoing disease surveillance, responds quickly to disease events, communicates diagnostic outcomes to decision makers, and has the capability and capacity to meet diagnostic needs during animal disease outbreaks, according to the organization.

The Idaho lab in June passed a NAHLN audit by USDA following several years of preparation and the opening of the new facility in late 2022. The recognition represents an advancement in Idaho's animal disease diagnostic capabilities and highlights the state's commitment to protecting animal health and agriculture, according to an ISDA news release.

"Being part of the NAHLN is a major step forward for Idaho," ISDA director Chanel Tewalt said. "It reflects our commitment to providing essential animal health services right here at home, because no one cares more about Idaho agriculture than Idaho." The designation "means faster answers for producers, efficient responses to disease outbreaks and a stronger, more secure future for our agricultural industry backed by in-state expertise."

As a network member, the state lab can do more, according to the department. For example, the certification means the lab is authorized to conduct avian influenza testing on milk samples collected in Idaho. These samples previously had to be sent to out-of-state laboratories, often delaying test results and response times.

"In coming weeks, we expect to be able to test in-house for avian influenza in poultry, and for avian Newcastle Disease in poultry," ISDA public information officer Sydney Kennedy told Capital Press.

NAHLN membership also means the lab — the first in the state to earn the designation — is eligible for increased federal funding to support operations and further development, according to the release.

See ISDA, Page C11

Idaho wolf population down for now but could rise

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Idaho Department of Fish and Game biologists estimate the state's wolf population at 1,235 as of May 2024, down 7.35% from 1,333 a year earlier.

Other estimated totals for May were 1,642 for 2019, 1,688 in 2020, 1,592 in 2021 and 1,211 — less than 2% below the most recent total — in 2022.

Intervals have 95% credibility, meaning there is some uncertainty around the estimates, wildlife research manager Matt Mumma told the state Fish and Game Commission July 17.

"If we look at this going back to 2019 and think about the population trend, we think that there likely are less wolves in Idaho than there were in 2019," he said. "But if we zoom in to these last three years and we consider the uncertainty — those 95% credible intervals — we think that the population is likely fairly stable in the last three years."

Harvest in the fall-winter 2024-25 trapping and hunting season was down, primarily because of trapping closures that resulted from a Boise-based federal judge's ruling in a lawsuit involving grizzly bear protection, Mumma said.

"And so we do anticipate that, and it's very likely that, (wolf) abundance will probably increase next year," he said.

A new method that the department uses to estimate the state's wolf population is "an efficient use of existing data" and "robust to changes in abundance, which is why we transitioned from the camera-based method," Mumma said.

The new method has been submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, and will be used for the May 2025 estimate to be released a year from now.

As of 2023, estimates over several years produced by the new method were similar to those produced from remote cameras previously "and showed the same general declining trend in the state's wolf population," according to a summary circulated ahead of the commission meeting.

Fish and Game from 2019 to 2023 used a statewide array of about 700 remote cameras combined with statistical modeling. Those estimates suggested the wolf population was stable in 2019-21 and started to decline in 2022 and 2023 per state wolf management plan objectives.

But the department's ongoing research "suggested camera-based, statewide wolf estimates were likely to become less reliable at lower wolf abundancies," according to the summary. Staff thus started developing an alternative estimation method that uses data from harvested wolves — genetic relatedness and age — to estimate population composition and abundance.

The new method combines two established modeling approaches. Although the method was developed recently, it uses data the department had been collecting for years from harvested wolves, "thereby allowing staff to use the new method to estimate wolf abundance in prior years," according to the summary.

The state's 2023-28 wolf management plan aims to reduce the population to around 500, the 2009 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service threshold for delisting under the Endangered Species Act and thus allowing the state to manage wolves.

Idaho Fish and Game in recent years has focused on reducing the wolf population where livestock depredation was chronic and elk populations were below management objectives. The 2021 legislature substantially increased allowed wolf take and methods that can be used.

Candy W. Dale, a Boise-based federal magistrate judge, denied in early February 2025 Idaho's request that she reconsider her ban on recreational wolf trapping and snaring when ESA-protected grizzly bears are not in their dens.

In a lawsuit brought by environmental groups, she ruled in March 2024 that trapping and snaring wolves during the grizzlies' non-denning period from March 1 to Nov. 30 threatens the bears.



Courtesy John and Karen Hollingsworth/USFWS

A gray wolf. Idaho regulators say there are 1,235 wolves in the state, 7% less than a year ago.

She ordered Idaho Fish and Game to curtail its wolf snaring and trapping seasons in the state's northern panhandle and in the Clearwater, Salmon and Upper Snake river regions.

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USDA announces extra purchase of apples, other commodities



Courtesy Andy Handley

Cosmic Crisp apples are shown in a bin in this file photo. On Aug. 1, the USDA announced it would purchase up to $35 million in fresh apples for nutrition assistance programs.

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

The USDA will purchase up to $35 million of fresh apples for distribution through nutrition assistance programs across the country.

The commitment will support growers in a time of poor market conditions and comes in addition to normal purchases of apples for school lunch programs, the military and other programs, said Jim Bair, USApple president and CEO.

"This is a win-win for growers and hungry Americans and helps USDA be efficient with taxpayer dollars," Bair added.

On Aug. 1, the USDA announced that it would purchase $230 million worth of food from five commodities, including apples.

The agency also will purchase $100 million of Alaska pollock, $50 million of dry beans ($16 million in black beans, $13 million of pinto, $10 million of kidney, $6 million of great northern, $3 million of navy and $2 million of small red), $25 million of dried cranberries, and $20 million of farm-raised catfish.

"Today's announcement continues to prioritize American commodities for families and communities in need," Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins in a news release.

Bair said it wasn't possible to know how many of the apples purchased would come from Washington and the rest of the West until the USDA actually solicits bids.

"Nonetheless, as it has been said, a rising tide lifts all boats. So wherever the apples originate, it will have a positive effect on growers," Bair said, in an email.

He estimated that if apples were purchased at roughly $25 per box, it would add up to 1.4 million boxes.

"The USDA purchase will likely be for the 2025 crop, but just for perspective, according to USApple's AppleTracker, on July 1 there were 28.7 million boxes still in storage," Bair said.

About two years ago, the USApple board of directors instructed staff members to pursue outlets for apples such as food banks.

The goal was to not displace commercial sales that ordinarily serve the normal school lunch and military programs.

"We have excellent relations with USDA and to the agency's credit they listened and responded with about $94 million purchases in fresh apples and processed apple products for food banks," Bair said.

"We went back to them with another request a few weeks ago and are delighted to see the positive response, especially as it has now bridged two presidential administrations," he added, in the email.

The apple and other commodity purchases come through Section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935.

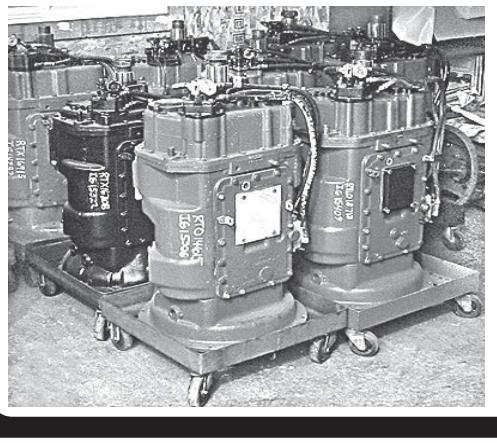
Section 32 allows USDA to purchase surplus commodities and distribute them through nutrition programs, better aligning supply with demand while strengthening agricultural markets.

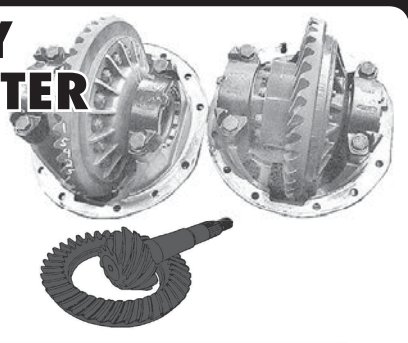
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Australia relaxes restrictions on beef processed in U.S.

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Australian government loosened import restrictions on beef processed in the U.S. after a five-year study on how the USDA inspects the health of cattle raised in Mexico and Canada and slaughtered in the U.S.

The study, finalized this month, concluded the USDA's border inspections met Australian biosecurity standards. The finding will allow U.S. meat packers to export beef derived from Canadian and Mexican cattle, removing a trade obstacle that had caught the attention of President Trump.

"Now, we are going to sell so much (beef) to Australia because this is undeniable and irrefutable proof that U.S. beef is the safest and best in the entire world," he said on a social media post July 24.

"All of our nation's ranchers, who are some of the hardest working and most wonderful people, are smiling today, which means I am smiling too," he said.

Australia ranked second in the world in beef exports in 2025, behind only Brazil. Exports to the U.S. accounted for nearly 30% of Australia's global exports, according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service. The USDA expects Australian beef exports to the U.S. to set a record this year.

In contrast, the U.S. exports little beef to Australia. U.S. beef is not banned from Australia, but the beef has had to come from cows raised as well as slaughtered in the U.S.

Mexico and Canada import about 2 million head of live cattle into the U.S. annually. The USDA has taken steps to tighten biosecurity measures, according to Australia's Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association had previously called Australia's restriction on U.S. beef a slap in the face.

"The lack of two-way, science-based trade has been a sticking point for many years, and we are pleased that President Trump has successfully opened the Australian market to American beef," NCBA President Buck Wehrbein said in a statement.

Trump referred to Australia's restriction on U.S. beef exports in his April 2 Liberation Day remarks. Australian Agriculture Minister Julie Collins told reporters that Trump's criticism wasn't a factor in relaxing the restriction.

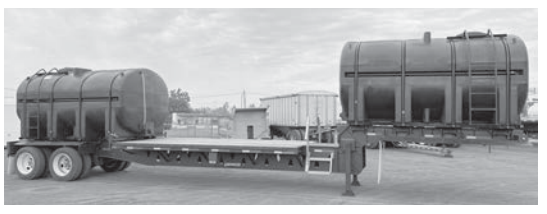
"The decision has been based purely on science and a rigorous assessment by my department," she said.

See BEEF, Page C11



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Cattle graze in southeast Washington. Australia has loosened import restrictions on beef processed in the U.S., pleasing President Trump.



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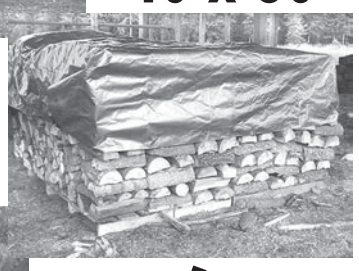
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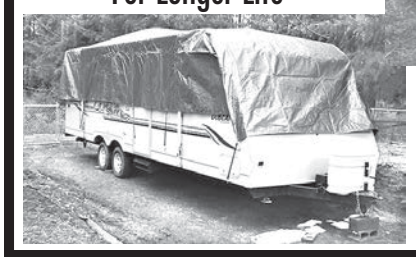
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Courtesy Lori Maricle/Washington Grain Commission

Now-former U.S. Wheat Associates president and CEO Vince Peterson (left) and now-current president and CEO Mike Spier (right) sit together Nov. 21, 2024, during the Tri-State Grain Growers Convention in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Spier took over as president and CEO July 1, upon Peterson's retirement.

New U.S. Wheat CEO: Market volatility 'here to stay'

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Demand for wheat worldwide has outpaced production several times in the last 10 years, the new president and CEO of U.S. Wheat Associates says.

Mike Spier took over the position July 1 from Vince Peterson, who retired. Spier was most recently vice president of overseas operations for U.S. Wheat, the overseas marketing arm for the industry.

Spier expects that growing wheat consumption to continue.

"Right now (the U.S.) is competitive, and our goal is to continue to grow that and expand our market share," Spier told Capital Press during a phone interview July 24. "Every bushel of wheat that is exported helps the farmer's profitability."

But there's also been an increase in global competition, particularly from Black Sea and Australian exporters in the last five years.

"We're in a good position in terms of the wheat our farmers are growing," Spier said. "We're seeing an increase in demand for high-quality products. That's a great fit for the United States. That's where our competitive advantage is."

In June, Peterson said market volatility has increased over the last 25 years, calling it a sign of the times. Spier agrees.

"I look at global wheat market volatility as being here to stay," Spier said. "The world is not significantly building exportable supplies. This leaves the wheat markets open to volatility when there's a geopolitical event, a supply disruption, a quality issue or changes in economic conditions.

"U.S. Wheat, and our work with our overseas buyers, we can help mitigate some of their exposures to that volatility by providing the wheat marketing information, the quality information that we provide in a very timely and comprehensive way," Spier said.

Tough price scenario

Lower wheat prices help keep the crop competitive on the world market, but "it's clear the current price environment is a significant challenge" for growers, Spier said.

He points to increases in input costs, including fuel, fertilizer and equipment.

"Lower prices also present a tough scenario for our farmers," he said.

See WHEAT, Page C11

Energy Department: U.S. heading toward more blackouts by 2030

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Blackouts could increase a hundredfold by 2030 if the U.S. continues to close coal and natural gas plants and fails to replace them with other on-demand power sources, according to a new Department of Energy report.

The grid reliability report reflects the Trump administration's embrace of fossil fuels and takes aim at state policies that call for an increasing share of electricity to come from wind and solar.

Absent intervention, the nation's power grid will be unable to meet the demand of industries and data centers needed to win the artificial intelligence arms race, according to the report.

"This report affirms what we already know: The United States cannot afford to continue down the unstable and dangerous path of energy subtraction previous leaders pursued, forcing the closure of baseload power like coal and natural gas," Energy Secretary Chris Wright said in a statement.

President Trump directed the Energy Department to do the report, which borrowed from a previous study by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. The report looked at planned closures of coal and natural gas plants and projected what would happen if they were almost entirely replaced by wind and solar installations.

All regions of the U.S. will be more vulnerable to blackouts, according to the report. Hours of inadequate power nationwide would increase to 817 hours a year from the current eight hours, according to the report.

The risk of blackouts would vary by region. In California, power shortages could increase to seven hours from zero hours now. In a large part of the West, including Oregon, Idaho and Washington, blackouts could average nearly 18 hours a year. Other parts of the country, particularly portions of the Northeast, would be more prone to blackouts, according to the report.



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

A Puget Sound Energy natural gas power plant generates electricity in Longview, Wash. Washington requires electric utilities to phase out natural gas power by 2045. The U.S. Department of Energy says such policies will increase blackouts.

Washington's clean-energy law requires utilities to phase out coal and natural gas. The state's only coal plant will close at the end of the year. The law doesn't outright forbid new natural gas plants, but the prospects for building one are "highly suspect," said Nicolas Garcia, Washington Public Utility Districts Association policy director.

"I'm not sure how one would go about putting one on the ground given today's regulatory environment," he said.

Washington has come close to having too little electricity in recent years during extraordinary cold spells and heat waves. The Energy Department study confirms other grid reliability forecasts and shouldn't be dismissed as a partisan report, said Kurt Miller, Northwest Public Power Association executive director.

Washington state's energy policy has been "climate-centric," but should shift to "reliability-centric," he said.

"I think our policy currently lacks balance," Miller said. "The new state policy should be that before we shut down any on-demand generation there has to be something with similar characteristics to take its place."





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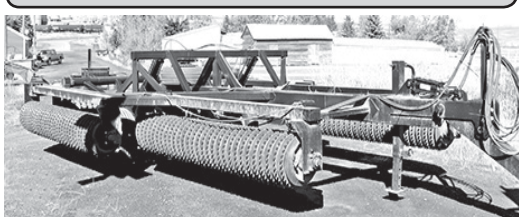
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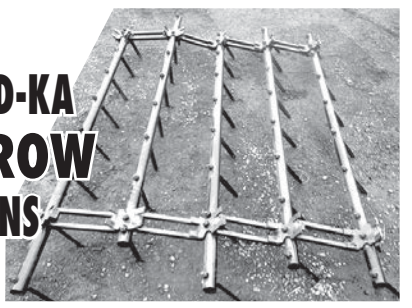
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GRASS SEED:

Continued from C3

"This would ultimately strengthen the entire seed industry and drive innovation forward, leading to better outcomes for farmers and other end-users," the proposal said.

While acknowledging that turf grass breeders have brought up some valid points, organizations representing farmers and seed dealers are skeptical of the proposal.

The Oregon Seed Association, which represents seed dealers, does not have an official position on the proposal but Kate Hartnell, its president, said that member companies generally aren't enthusiastic about restricting "variety not specified" labeling.

"I think we'll definitely feel some opposition on the dealer side," she said. "Additional regulation is just not the solution."

Grass seed that doesn't meet contractual quality standards often still has a viable use in the wholesale and international markets when sold as "variety not specified," Hartnell said.

"It's unrealistic to expect a grower to just burn it up or bury it or dispose of it in some way," she said.

Roughly 80% of grass seed sold as "variety not specified" has been rejected by a dealer, while only about 20% was speculatively grown by a farmer, said Mark Simmons, executive director of the Oregon Grass Seed Bargaining Association.

The real problem is that too much grass seed is rejected by dealers due to the oversupply of the crop, leaving farmers clamoring to offload seed they've spent a lot of money to produce, he said.

"They're not going to be digging a hole and burying it," Simmons said.

Faced with a prohibition on "variety not specified" labeling, farmers may simply sell the seed to a broker under another name rather than lose their investment, Simmons said.

"It certainly muddies the trail," he said.

In that case, the royalty problem would persist for turf grass breeders because the crop's true provenance would remain unknown, Simmons said.

"They need to deal with paying royalties to the breeders as a standalone issue," he said.

Selling a proprietary grass seed variety under another name would expose farmers to a major legal liability that many would be unwilling to risk, said Rep. Anna Scharf, R-Amity, whose family grows grass seed and other crops.

"You can't legally put a name on something and market it and sell it, if that's not what it is," she said.

Realistically, prohibiting "variety not specified" labeling would mean "growers won't be able to grow grass seed anymore," since farmers would fear the legal consequences of mislabeling, Scharf said.

"Variety not specified" labeling is a consequence of dealers contracting for too many acres and then rejecting much of the crop due to exceedingly stringent contract standards, Scharf said.

"The grass seed companies have created this because they or their customers have created expectations that growers can no longer meet," she said.

Rather than eliminate "variety not specified" labeling, dealers could be required to accept seed they've ordered from growers, even if it doesn't meet contract specifications, said Simmons of OGSBA.

That grass seed would not be subject to payment deadlines under Oregon law, but the dealers would still be required to market it and pay royalties to the breeder, he said.

"It's an issue that needs to be dealt with differently," Simmons said.

That concept failed to make any headway in the Oregon legislative session earlier this year and would not reduce the industry's excess inventories, responded Hartnell of OSA.

Such matters are better corrected with contract terms between growers and dealers, which they are currently trying to work out, she said. "I don't think additional regulation is necessary to solve an oversupply we see in the market today."

Scharf, the Oregon lawmaker, said she doesn't think it'd be politically tenable to require dealers to buy grass seed that doesn't meet contract terms.

Instead, Scharf said she hopes lawmakers recognize the dire economic conditions in the grass seed industry and increase the legal acreage of canola in Oregon's Willamette Valley, which would provide farmers with another planting option.

"We need an alternative crop," she said.

BEEF:

Continued from C7

Cattle Australia, a trade association representing Aussie ranchers, called for an independent scientific review of the decision to relax the restriction.

R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard said increasing exports helps U.S. ranchers, but noted that Australia is already "awash in beef."

"There may be some minor benefits to having increased access to the Australian market, but the benefits will largely flow to meat packers," he said. "I don't see (Australia) purchasing a significant amount of beef."

The U.S. doesn't produce enough beef to meet domestic demand. If U.S. beef exports increase, consumer beef prices may rise, Bullard said.

WHEAT:

Continued from C8

U.S. Wheat will continue to show flour millers around the world the quality advantage that comes from using American wheat, he said.

The increase in demand is coming on the consumer level, seeking higher quality products, Spier said.

"Flour mills are asking for more than just 'wheat,' they're getting a lot more specific with their demands, specific end-use performance, consistent quality," he said.

Social media reflects increased interest for U.S. bakery product trends in markets overseas.

"In terms of improving quality products, you need a higher quality wheat," Spier said. "We're really leaning into that."

Trading commitments

U.S. Wheat recently announced several memorandums of understanding, with wheat customers in Indonesia and Bangladesh committing to purchasing 1 million tons and 700,000 tons each year, respectively, over the next five years.

Milling associations in those countries reached out to U.S. Wheat, Spier said. The agency keeps in contact with the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service offices.

It's a new approach under the Trump administration, Spier said.

"I think the countries are looking at ways to narrow those trade balances with the United States," he said. "This is one way we've seen at least two countries reach out trying to do that."

"These are the two (more MOUs) that we've heard about, at least at U.S. Wheat Associates," Spier said. "Maybe seeing these other ones out there will encourage other countries to consider them as well."

'A challenge I eagerly embrace'

Spier has been in the wheat industry for more than 30 years.

"The opportunity to lead such a remarkable organization is an honor, and also a challenge I eagerly embrace," Spier said.

He's excited to work with, and on behalf of farmers, helping to maintain and develop markets for U.S. wheat long-term.

For example, Spier cites commercial sales reports of 100,000 tons of U.S. wheat into the price-competitive region as a direct result of U.S. Wheat's first Sub-Saharan Africa buyers conference in April.

"I think our buyers understand we're there to work with them to support them," he said. "We want them to be profitable and we're there to help them do that."

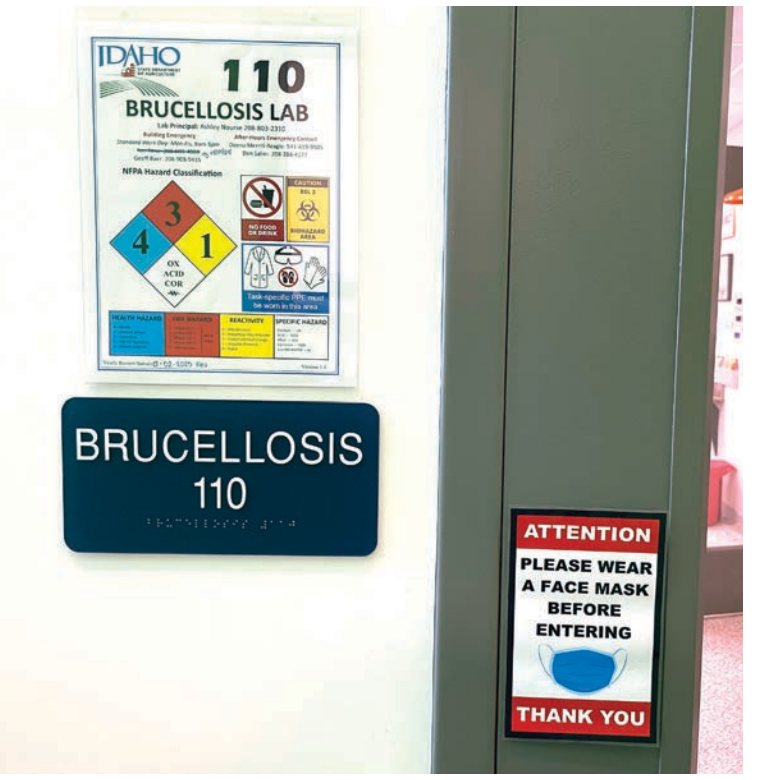
ISDA:

Continued from C4

Since the department opened the animal health lab on its east Boise campus to replace outdated quarters and accommodate growth, testing for trichomoniasis in resident male cattle, and for brucellosis in cattle and some other livestock, has expanded and improved, ISDA officials said during a facility tour July 29. The lab this year has started testing water samples for invasive quagga mussels, to reduce reliance on out-of-state labs.

IDAHO LAB DETAIL

https://agri.idaho.gov/laboratories/animal-health-laboratory/



Brad Carlson/Capital Press

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture Animal Health Laboratory's mission includes testing for brucellosis in cattle and some other livestock.

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Three more Oregon counties request state drought emergency declarations

By KYLE ODEGARD
Capital Press

Three more Oregon counties have requested that Gov. Tina Kotek issue emergency drought declarations, according to the Oregon Water Resources Department.

Union and Morrow counties in northeast Oregon and Douglas County in southern Oregon have asked for the state's assistance.

In paperwork, the counties cited economic losses to farms and ranches among other impacts.

On July 10, Oregon declared drought emergencies for Lincoln County on the Oregon Coast and Baker County in northeast Oregon.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, as of July 22, severe drought covered 22.4% of the state, including large portions of northwest and northeast Oregon. About 33.2% of Oregon was in moderate drought.

Only a section of Wallowa County that included less than 1% of the state's land was in extreme drought, however.

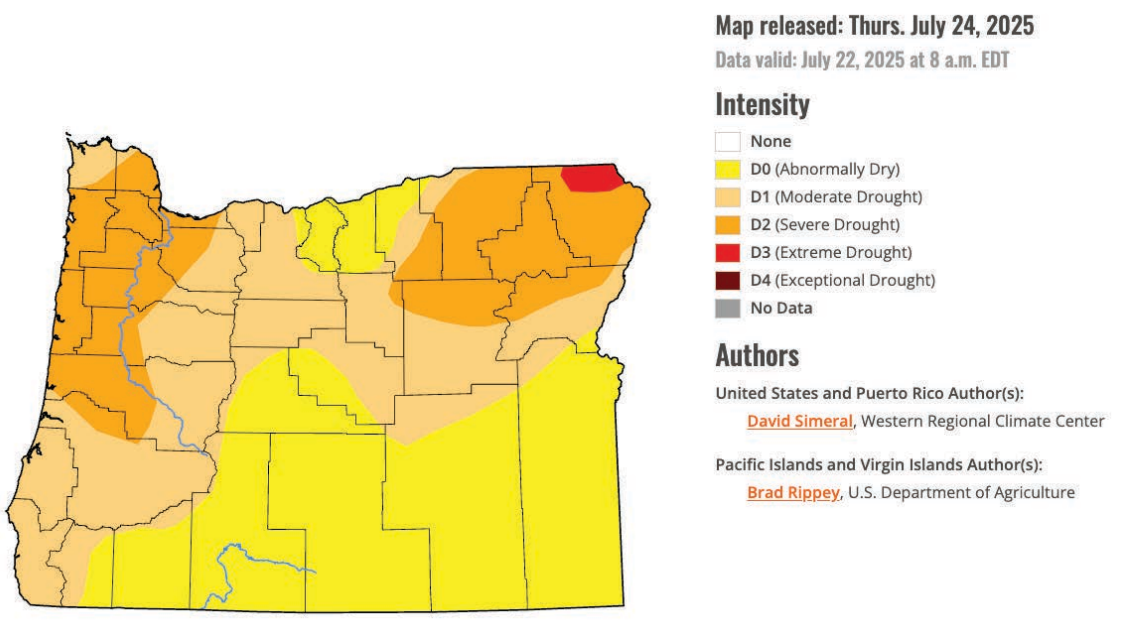
Union County is listed as 100% in severe drought.

About 35% of Morrow County was in severe drought, with another 27% in moderate drought.

Douglas County had 11.5% of its land in severe drought and the rest was in moderate drought.

Morrow County formally declared a drought on July 2, and sent a request to the Oregon Water Resources Department asking for a state declaration that same day.

"There is the potential for Morrow County agricultural and livestock, natural resources, recreational, tourism and related economies to experience widespread and severe damage resulting from extreme weather conditions within the county. The county is experiencing negative impacts to agriculture," wrote Morrow County commissioners.



Courtesy image, U.S. Drought Monitor

The U.S. Drought Monitor showed severe drought covering about 22.4% of Oregon as of July 22. Only a portion of Wallowa County was in extreme drought, however.

Union County locally declared a drought July 16, noting in a statement that crop yields had already been reduced and irrigation stream flows were declining rapidly.

Even though the county experienced a strong snowpack mid-winter, the spring growing season, which is critical for crops and forage, was unusually dry.

From mid-May to mid-July, the area's precipitation was less than 50% of normal.

Douglas County issued its own emergency drought order July 23, which noted the need to be responsive to the threat of wildfires and other factors.

The order said agricultural, livestock, forest products industries and related businesses are experiencing economic hardship and potential serious injury and losses resulting from extreme weather.

According to a news release, conditions will result in decreased feed and pasture production, a shortened growing season and decreased water supplies for producers, including vineyards.

Douglas County stream flows were 65% of average for June, with soil moisture levels very low.

The South Umpqua River and multiple smaller tributaries have already been regulated by the state in favor of senior water rights, and more restrictions were anticipated.

"Due to dry soil and low stream flows, basin water managers expect to regulate surface water right users much earlier and to older priority dates than normal," the news release stated.

"The lack of surface water resources will negatively impact consumptive water users including irrigators, industrial and domestic users resulting in economic losses and hardship," it continued.

Groundwater also isn't expected to recharge significantly, resulting in reduced spring and well water supplies for household uses.

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Courtesy Oregon Department of Agriculture

Customers shop at a farm stand in this ÿle photo. Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek has halted the rule-making process on proposed changes to farm stand regulation.

Rule-making halted over Oregon farm stand regulations

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Public acrimony over proposed changes to Oregon's farm stand regulations has convinced Gov. Tina Kotek to halt the rule-making process to "reassess next steps."

Kotek said she suspended the rule-making because she is "paying attention" to growers who've become "anxious and frustrated" over potential impacts to their farm stand operations.

"We can support our local farm businesses while also preserving Oregon's historic land use system. This is not an either/or conversation," according to Kotek's statement.

Earlier this year, lawmakers referred the debate over regulating farm stands to the Department of Land Conservation and Development, partly to provide more time for negotiations than would be possible during the legislative session.

New restrictions for farm stands were initially considered under House Bill 3133, which would have set requirements for fee-based events, cooked foods and what items could be sold by such operations, among other revisions.

Lawmakers allowed a legislative deadline to kill the proposal after deciding that DLCD's rulemaking process would allow for longer deliberations about such issues as selling prepared foods on-site and holding promotional events.

However, it now appears that changing the forum for the debate has not tamed the strong feelings surrounding agritourism.

Proponents of flexible regulations for agritourism argue that such operations simply allow farms to diversify their revenue sources, keeping them operational and staving off development.

Farmland conservation advocates agree that agritourism can offer a profitable and legitimate income stream, but worry some operations may become primarily entertainment venues that minimize on-site agricultural production and disrupt neighboring farms with traffic and other problems.

See FARM, Page C14

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USDA, FDA to define 'ultra-processed foods'

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The USDA and Food and Drug Administration will define "ultra-processed foods," trying to distinguish between healthy processed foods and processed foods linked to heart disease, diabetes, cancer, obesity and other health problems.

Although commonly used, the term has no commonly accepted definition. A settled definition will guide researchers, policy makers and consumers, the agencies said July 24 in a Federal Register notice asking for public comments.

"The threats posed to our health by foods often considered ultra-processed are clear and convincing, making it imperative that we work in lockstep with our federal partners to advance, for the first time ever, a uniform definition of ultra-processed foods," FDA Commissioner Marty Makary said in a statement.

Several states and private organizations have proposed definitions based on ingredients or production processes.

A federal definition could roil food makers. The recent Make America Healthy Again report cited research suggesting most branded food products are ultra-processed.

In one study, researchers assigned processing scores to more than 50,000 grocery store products. The scores varied widely even among the same types of foods, such as breads, cereals, yogurts and snack bars.

Soft drinks and many packaged snacks high in added sugars, sodium and saturated fat are commonly considered ultra-processed, but whole grain products and yogurt also may be highly processed, but have health benefits, according to the USDA and FDA's joint notice.

An overly broad definition of ultra-processed could discourage healthy eating, according to the agencies.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said in a statement that President Trump supports improving public health and consumer choice.

"As this process unfolds, I will make certain the great men and women of the agriculture value chain are part of the conversation," she said.

Although definitions vary, ultra-processed foods are generally packaged, ready to consume, formulated for long shelf life and palatability, and typically high in added sugars, refined grains, unhealthy fats and sodium, and low in nutrients, according to the MAHA report.

The report acknowledged packaged foods are convenient, inexpensive and have long shelf lives. Still, the report lamented the rise and prevalence of ultra-processed foods.

Americans eat ingredients unknown 100 years ago and not found in home kitchens. About 70% of the calories consumed by U.S. children come from foods considered to be ultra-processed, the report states.

Ultra-processing transforms healthy foods produced by farmers into "food-like substances," the report states. "The U.S. food and agricultural systems have embraced ultra-processed ingredients and synthetic chemicals," the report reads.

"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," according to the report.

FARM:

Continued from C13

As the controversy over farm stand regulations picked up steam on social media lately, DLCD made an announcement denying the proposed changes would prohibit pumpkin patches, U-Pick operations, hay rides and other promotional activities.

The rule-making is instead meant to clarify which non-farm products can be sold at farm stands and whether certain activities require a permit or are allowed outright on farmland, according to DLCD. The agency said the proposal would also set standards for preventing conflicts with neighbors and other issues.

1000 Friends of Oregon, a farmland preservation non-profit, blamed the rancor on "a wave of recent misinformation circulating online" and argued that "much of the alarm being raised isn't based in fact."

"To be clear: The proposed rules would only apply to new farm stand permits. If an existing operation is lawfully permitted, they shouldn't need to make any changes," the group said.

However, farm stand operators such as EZ Orchards near Salem, Ore., raised nuanced concerns about the direction of the proposed rule-making, alleging the revisions would serve as an impediment to agritourism.

Specifically, EZ Orchards argued that DLCD's language was too vague regarding prepared foods — such as the company's cider donuts and milkshakes made from farm-grown ingredients — which could lead county governments to ban such sales.

The company also worried the proposal would result in an "overly narrow" definition of the "incidental" items sold at farm stands, which aren't grown on-site.

Currently, such incidental items can comprise up to 25% of a farm stand's sales, but EZ Orchards is concerned that requiring the products to be "directly related" to an operation's own crops or livestock would be too restrictive.

"That means a peach grower could sell peach butter made with peaches from his orchard, but not locally made Marionberry jam—even if it's from a neighboring farm," the company said.

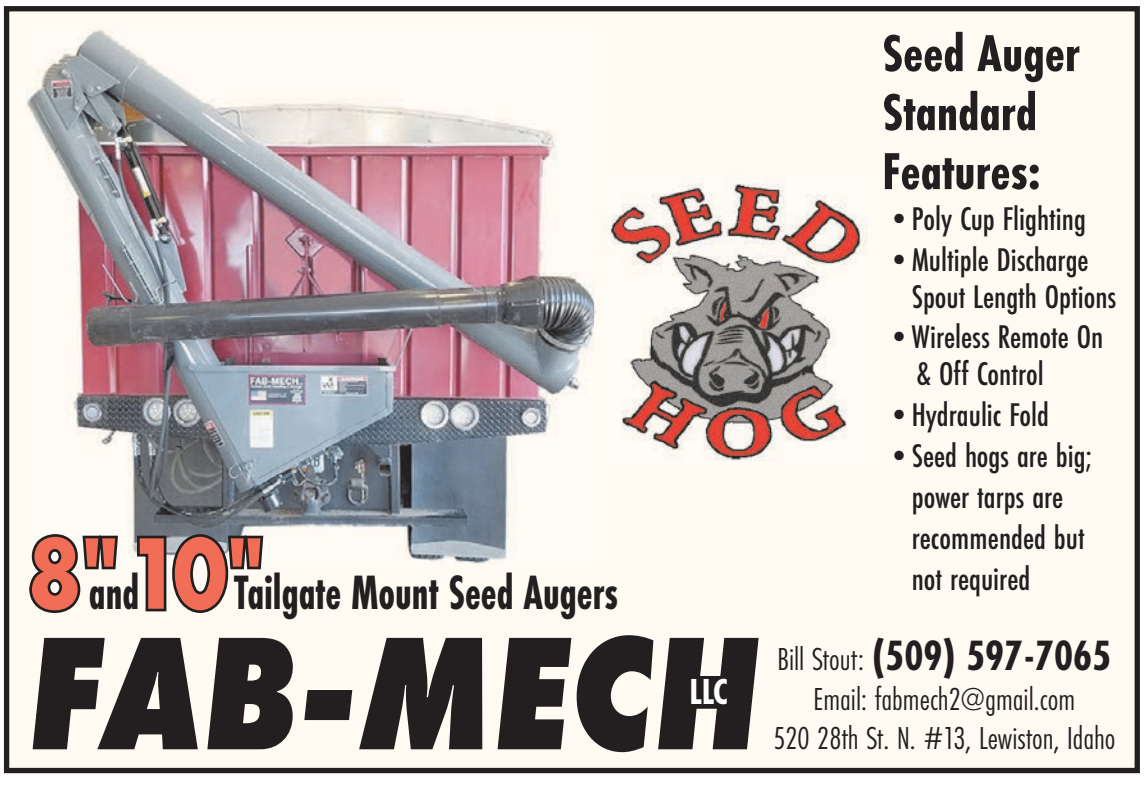
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USDA to reorganize, send employees in D.C. to other cities

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The USDA will reduce the number of employees working in Washington, D.C., vacate three buildings and consolidate regional offices, a reorganization that Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins said will cut costs and bring the department closer to farmers.

The department has nearly 100,000 employees nationwide and about 4,600 work in the D.C. area. The USDA plans to reduce the D.C. workforce to about 2,000 employees by moving workers to department hubs in Kansas City, Indianapolis, Salt Lake City, Raleigh and Fort Collins, Colo.

"It has always been (President Trump's) vision to drain the swamp out of Washington, D.C. — and we are delivering on that promise," Rollins said in a media post July 25.

Governors and federal lawmakers in states that will get an influx of USDA employees praised the reorganization.

Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn., said the plan was "half-baked" and that she would call for an oversight hearing. "This will decimate research, etc., just as farmers are walloped by tariffs," she said on social media.



Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins

The USDA's workforce has grown by 8% and employee salaries have increased by 14.5% over the past four years, but with no improvement in service to constituents, according to a USDA statement.

The USDA does not plan a large cut in the workforce, but will continue to seek to shrink payrolls through programs that lower the retirement age or pay employees to resign, Rollins said in a memo. So far this year, 15,364 USDA employees have opted for buyouts.

The USDA did not offer a timeline for relocating employees, vacating buildings or merging offices, though it indicated some of the changes will take place over several years.

The USDA said it considered the existing concentration of department employees and the cost of living in selecting the five hub cities.

Federal employees receive cost-of-living bonuses on top of their base salaries. The bonus in D.C. is nearly 34%, compared to 19% in Kansas City, 22% in Raleigh, 18% in Indianapolis, 17% in Salt Lake City and 30% in Fort Collins.

The USDA will retain its headquarters in Washington, D.C., and keep two other buildings there. The three buildings it will vacate are underused and need repairs, according to the department.

One of the buildings, the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, will be vacated over several years to avoid disrupting research programs, the department said.

The USDA has 29 agencies and more than 4,500 offices nationwide. Other points in the reorganization plan include:

- The Agriculture Research Service will eliminate area offices.
- The National Agricultural Statistics Service will consolidate its 12 regions into five over several years.
- The Food and Nutrition Service will reduce its number of regions from seven to five.
- The Natural Resources Conservation Service will align its regions with the five USDA hub cities.

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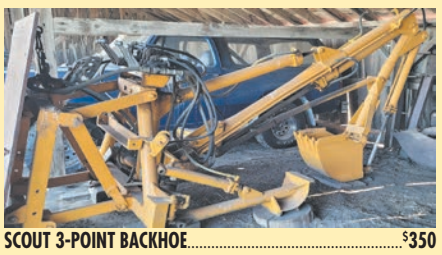
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