

Mini-ranchettes and dream farms

Find it in the Classifieds, Page 20



High demand for organic hay

Profit Center, Page 9



Capital The West's

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2009

VOLUME 82, NUMBER 41

WWW.CAPITALPRESS.COM

\$150

Herd retirement rides again

Bids capped at \$5.25 per hundredweight, due Oct. 15

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS Capital Press

Cooperatives Working Together is taking more dairy cows out of production in an effort to improve milk prices.

Producers wishing to bid

for a herd buyout must do so quickly. Bids for the latest buyout, announced Thursday, Oct. 1, are due Thursday, Oct. 15. It's CWT's third herd retirement of 2009 and the fourth in the past 12 months.

We've made a huge effort to get the amount of milk back in line with diminished demand," said Jim Tillison, CWT's chief operating officer. "We hope to get to where producers are at break-even sometime this fall."

Tillison said an analysis by the National Milk Producers Federation shows that CWT's efforts will speed market recovery by six months. Without the herd retirements, supply and demand wouldn't begin coming back in balance until spring. With CWT, that equilibrium will be reached sometime this fall.

More inside

Cattlemen worry retirement will hurt beef prices, Page 8. Ag officials urge USDA to act on aid for dairy products, Page 8.

With producers losing at least \$100 per cow per month, that six months will make a

big difference in producers' survival rate, he said.

The herd retirement of late 2008, plus the two herd retirements so far in 2009, have removed 226,000 cows from the nation's dairy herds, said Jerry Kozak, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation, which manages Cooperatives Working Togeth-

"Those efforts have helped

adjust the supply of milk more in line with demand. This third herd retirement of 2009, along with a stabilizing global economy, should further accelerate the recovery in dairy farm-

ers' prices," he said. While Tillison didn't disclose the program's budget, he said National Milk Producers knew at the start of the year it

Turn to HERD, Page 8

Divided over land rights

Nearly 40 years later, farmer's land-use vision is still alive — and still fiercely debated

By MITCH LIES Capital Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — In the late 1960s, with the population rapidly expanding in Western Oregon, dairyman Hector Macpherson concluded it was only a matter of time before his Willamette Valley farm was swallowed by development.

That realization was the genesis of Oregon's land-use laws.

Macpherson, who in 1967 was on the Linn County Planning Commission, brought his concerns to state of-

Six years later, Macpherson, who was by then a state senator, with the help of Gov. Tom McCall, wrote what became one of the most significant laws in Oregon history.

Senate Bill 100, which lawmakers adopted in 1973, put in place a landuse system that today, depending on who you ask, is either heralded or derided

Macpherson, now 91, said he knew all along it would be a tremendously controversial bill. But, he said, only a strong land-use law could protect farms from urban sprawl.

To generate support, Macpherson packed the bill with benefits for farm-

"I always knew it was going to be controversial," he said. "I pulled all the advantages I could into it."

Senate Bill 100 and its companion bill, Senate Bill 101, included the first right-to-farm law in Oregon, tax breaks for farms in exclusive farm use zones and a promise that the state would compensate landowners for lost value caused by a land-use restriction.

Section 24 of SB100 instructed a committee to "make recommendations to the Legislative Assembly on the implementation of a program for compensation ... for the value of any loss of use of such lands resulting directly from the imposition of any zoning...."



Lynn Ketchum/Oregon State University

Hector Macpherson stands with his wife, Kitty, at the family farm east of Corvallis, Ore., in this 2001 photo. Macpherson, 91, is recognized as a forefather of Oregon's land-use system. A former dairyman, he served as an Oregon state senator from 1971 to 1975.

The benefits appeased rural lawmakers, and the bill sailed through both chambers 58-30—a nearly 2-to-1 mar-

Bill Moshofsky, 86, vice president of government affairs for the property rights group Oregonians In Action, was a timber lobbyist in 1973. The timber industry opposed the bill, he said, but that opposition was muffled in part because of the compensation promised land owners and because the rules enacting SB100 had yet to be written.

Dave Hunnicutt, president of Oregonians In Action, said concern among property rights advocates

Turn to LAND, Page 8

Land-use laws in the West

Following is a summary of land-use laws in four key Western states. Oregon: State law restricts

development on private property zoned exclusive farm use or exclusive forest

Washington: No state restrictions are in place. Land-use regulations are developed and regulated at the county and city level under some state direction.

Idaho: There are no state restrictions for development on privately owned farm or forest land. County restrictions typically call for 40-acre minimum lot sizes before housing is allowed, but counties regularly relax those

restrictions, said John Thompson, public relations director for the Idaho Farm Bureau

California: The state does not regulate land-use practices except within the framework of the Williamson Act. Under it, farmers who agree to keep land undeveloped for at least 10 years are taxed based on their income-producing capacity as agricultural land. Development is allowed on farms not under Williamson Act contracts provided cities and counties approve. More than half of California's 30 million farm and ranch acres currently are protected under the act.

-Mitch Lies

Pollan invite upsets alumni

Cal Poly schedules panel discussion after ag outcry

By CECILIA PARSONS Capital Press

Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo's decision to schedule food activist Michael Pollan has sparked widespread criticism from the production agricul-

ture community. The Oct. 15 event is being hosted by the College of Agriculture, Food and



ture Resource Consortium. Pol-

lan will also be a featured speaker at a sold-out fundraising event for SARC on Oct. 14. The consortium was founded in 2000 to serve the agriculture department in its sustainability efforts.

Pollan, author of "The Omnivore's Dilemma" and other books questioning the sustainability of U.S. food production, has been a vocal critic of production systems. There have been similar controversies on college campuses, most recently Washington State University, when Pollan has been asked to speak.

Pollan was initially scheduled to be the only speaker at the free, open-to-the-public event Oct. 15. The format was changed to a panel discussion following an outcry from agri-

Turn to POLLAN, Page 8

Western innovator

Farmer endeavors to harvest minerals from soil

Diener seeks ways to profitably remove troublesome minerals from soil

By WES SANDER Capital Press

Like farmers everywhere, John Diener wants the family business to thrive despite environmental challenges that always seem to get worse.

Having made strides in adopting techniques that control erosion, increase irrigation efficiency and reduce fuel use, Diener has most recently turned to an endeavor that could save San Joaquin Valley soils while open-

ing new markets to valley farm-That endeavor is the extrac-

tion of minerals, which have built up in the soil to problem levels over the decades.

'We have a million-and-a-

half acres that have a drainage issue that needs to be addressed," Like many valley farmers,

Diener has had to fallow much of his land — a quarter of his 5,000 acres — as federal water deliveries dried up this year. So his efforts over the years

involving techniques for erosion control, water efficiency and mineral mining, which can control soil salinity—seem a perfect fit to modern circumstances, helping to make farmland management more sustainable while improving farmers' economic viability.

"Now a lot of people are implementing the things we've done," Diener said. "People are

John Diener Occupation: Farmer

Hometown: Five Points,

Education: Bachelor's degree in agricultural economics and business management, University of California-Davis Quote: "The issue is, how

do you pass the land on to the next generation in as good a shape as you received it?"

probably more aggressive out here about change. His efficiency efforts are

lauded by climate researchers and even organic farmers, despite the fact that he doesn't grow organically. Now that water supplies to the San Joaquin

Turn to DIENER, Page 8



Having made strides in techniques that control erosion, expand watering efficiency and reduce fuel usage, Diener has most recently turned to an endeavor that could save valley soils while creating mineral markets for valley farmers.

California farmer

John Diener

stands in a

vineyard he

Five Points.

operates on his

family's land near

Wes Sander/Capital Press



Nation/World

House OKs ag appropriations bill

Bill will include \$9 million for ag research in Oregon

By JIM ABRAMS **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nutrition, food stamp and dairy aid programs were among the winners as the House on Wednesday, Oct. 7, approved a \$121 billion agriculture spending bill for the 2010 budget

Reflecting the growing number of people scrambling to get by in tough economic times, the bill provides \$58.2 billion for the food stamp program, a jump of \$4.3 billion from last

Similarly, the federal nutrition program for women, in-

Rain delays corn,

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP)

Wet ground is keeping South

The most recent Agricul-

Dakota farmers from harvest-

ing what is expected to be record

ture Department report, issued

before rain spread through

much of eastern South Dako-

ta the past week, showed the

corn harvest at 2 percent com-

plete and the soybean harvest

five-year average, in part be-

cause a cool summer slowed

not much harvest," said Cod-

ington County Extension Agron-

omist Chuck Langner at Water-

town. "The big thing right now

is we need to get the (corn)

silage cut. With that big ma-

chinery, that's going to be a

es a risk for soybean yields.

lem with bursting if they dry

down (and) then get wet again,'

Premium Protein

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)

Premium Protein Products has

again extended furloughs that

began in June for about 400

the latest furlough extensions

via a recorded phone message

pany's plants in Hastings and

Lincoln have been out of work

since the furloughs began, and

the plants will remain closed

immediately respond to a mes-

sage The Associated Press left

headquarters and a processing

plant in Lincoln, and its slaugh-

terhouse is in Hastings. The

company specializes in providing beef, pork and chicken with a verified source.

Private equity firm Matlin

Patterson in New York is the

Two federal agencies are team-

ing up to write new food safe-

ty rules for fresh produce, fol-

lowing foodborne illness out-

breaks tied to fruits and veg-

Monday, Oct. 5, its fresh pro-

duce chief Leanne Skelton will

work with the Food and Drug

Administration to develop new

produce regulations over the

As part of the process, of-

ficials will travel the country to

talk with food safety officials

and farmers - including small,

organic growers — about the

impact new rules would have

ance the FDA proposed in July

to improve the safety of toma-

toes, leafy greens and melons.

The effort will build on guid-

next six months.

on the industry.

The USDA announced

etables in recent years.

Premium Protein has its

Company officials did not

The employees of the com-

on Tuesday, Oct. 6.

at least until Oct. 20.

on Tuesday.

Workers received word of

ups furloughs

Languer said the delay pos-

"Wet beans could be a prob-

Both are well below the

'We've had a lot of rain and

16 percent complete.

crop maturity.

problem.'

he said.

corn and soybean crops.

soybean harvest

In brief

fants and children receives \$7.3 billion, up \$400 million from 2009 nonemergency levels. Aid to school and child care nutrition programs goes up \$1.9 billion to \$16.9 billion.

The vote on the bill was 263-162, with much of the opposi-

tion coming from Republicans concerned about the spending increases. "Our country is working to scrape its way out of a debilitating recession, and

now is not the time to divert our precious resources to massive spending," California Rep. Jerry Lewis, the top Republican on the appropriations committee, said. But Rep. Rosa DeLauro, D-

Conn., head of the appropria-

tions subcommittee on agriculture, defended the spending. "Our fundamental responsibility as legislators and leaders, to stay nothing of basic morality and fairness, demands that we

do everything we can to help Americans suffering right now from poverty and malnutrition." Rep. David Wu, D-Ore, also defended the bill. "During this

economic downturn, it is especially important that we continue our federal investment in the vital agricultural segment of our economy and help support our nation's food system," Wu The bill includes nearly \$9

million for agricultural research

The legislation, the result of House-Senate negotiations, now goes to the Senate for a final vote before being sent to the president for his signature.

The bill, which covers federal programs for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1, contains two major policy initiatives, one for dairy farmers and the other for imported poultry products from China.

Lawmakers from dairy-producing states succeeded in getting \$350 million in aid for milk farmers struggling to cope with falling market prices. That includes \$60 million to cover the federal purchase of surplus cheese and other dairy products. The purchased products would go to food banks and other nutrition programs.

The dairy aid proposal was welcomed by lawmakers from the Midwest and Northeast where dairy operations are smaller, but drew claims of unfairness from lawmakers in California, home to much larger dairy farms.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., after meeting with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack Wednesday, said she was encouraged that the Agriculture Department "is committed to ensuring that these emergency funds are distributed to our dairy producers in a way that is regionally equitable.'

Boxer's office said she maintained a "hold" on the spending bill, a legislative move that makes bringing the bill to the Senate floor more difficult, while she clarifies the intent of the measure.

The House also agreed to a Senate proposal to lift a ban on poultry products imported from China conditioned on inspectors certifying that the products meet U.S. safety standards.

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(ISSN 0740-3704 -USPS 089-600) An independent newspaper published every Friday by Press Publishing Co., 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301. POSTMASTER: send address changes to Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048 Periodical postage paid at Salem, OR.

| 10 Reach US | |
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| Toll free 800-882-6789 | |
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| Advertising Fax 503-364-2692 | |
| Circulation (toll free) 866-910-1073 | |
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Subscription changes deadline: 10 a.m.

To get information published

Mailing address: Capital Press, P.O. Box 2048 Salem, OR 97308-2048

News: Contact the main office or news staff member closest to you, send the information to newsroom@capitalpress.com or mail it to "Newsroom." c/o Capital Press. Include a contact telephone number.

Letters to the Editor: Send your comments on agriculture-related public issues to opinion@capitalpress.com, or mail your letter to "Opinion," c/o Capital Press Letters should be limited to 300 words.

Deadline: Noon Monday

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Corrections

In an article in the Oct. 2 edition of the Capital Press, "Dam deal lurches forward," a quote from the Klamath Off-Project Water Users' president, Tom Mallams, should have read, "That's going to be the result if all this goes through." Mallams was referring to the end of irrigated agriculture in the Klamath basin if the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement is implemented.

In another story, the Portlandbased certifier of sustainable agriculture Food Alliance was incorrectly referred to as Farm Alliance. Capital Press regrets the

omission or factual error in a headline, story or photo caption, please call the Capital Press news department at 503-364-4431.

Chaos erupts at milk protest EU farmers flood

Brussels, spray milk from cows' udders

BRUSSELS (AP) -Farmers drove hundreds of tractors and a lone cow to the heart of the European Union bureaucracy on Monday, Oct. 5, pelting police with bottles and chickens and dumping milk and manure onto the streets of Brussels in a protest against collapsing milk prices.

Over 2,500 farmers from across the EU burned tires and hay outside an emergency meeting of farm ministers.

They sprayed milk from huge canisters, and the cow's udder, on a square close to the meeting. The jittery cow was frightened by firecrackers, sprang loose and chased an office worker down the street.

The farmers used heavy tractors to block major highways into Brussels and streets in the urban center, creating traffic chaos for dozens of miles outside the city for much of the day, keeping tens of thousands of commuters moving at a snail's pace.



A farmer sprays riot police with milk from a cows udder during a demonstration in front of EU headquarters in Brussels, Monday Oct. 5.

Farmers' demonstrations have often been violent in the past and there was a massive police presence that further choked roads throughout the

Officers prevented the farmers from getting too close to the meeting and there was no major violence.

The farmers' major demand — limiting production through quotas to drive up prices — met with no success. EU officials said they still intend to gradually create freer markets for European farm products.

There will be no backtracking," said EU Farm Commissioner Mariann Fischer

Farmers want regulation to shield them from market fluctuations and have been protesting for weeks, arguing production costs are currently up to twice as high as market prices. They have dumped tens of millions of gallons (liters) of milk into streets and fields to highlight their plight.

"If there is no change by this winter, I will have to stop milking," said Belgian farmer Richard Patrice. "Every day I lose money. It is as if every morning I wake up and I burn a 50 euro (\$73) bill."

Monsanto's fourth-quarter loss widens

Bv CHRISTOPHER LEONARD

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Monsanto Co., the world's biggest seed maker, said Wednesday its fourth-quarter loss widened to \$233 million in the fourth quarter on lower revenue, led by a drop in sales of its Roundup herbicide which is facing on onslaught of generic compe-

Its adjusted earnings narrowly beat Wall Street estimates, however.

Monsanto said its loss amounted to 43 cents per share in the quarter ended Aug. 31. That's larger than its loss of \$172 million, or 31 cents per share, a year earlier.

When one-time items are excluded, Monsanto said it earned 2 cents per share on an ongoing basis, beating Wall Street estimates for earnings of 1 cent per share. The estimates typically exclude onetime items.

Revenue fell to \$1.88 billion from \$2.05 billion the previous year.

The global market for Roundup has been deteriorating as rivals flood the market with generic versions of the chemical.

Sales in the agricultural chemical division, which includes Roundup, fell 12.5 percent to \$971 million. By contrast, sales in Monsanto's seed and genomics division fell nearly 4 percent to \$908 million during the quarter.

Chief Executive Hugh Grant said Monsanto is still on target to meet its 2007 goal of doubling that year's profits by 2012. The decline in Roundup sales only strengthens Monsanto's plan to focus on genetically engineered crops, while de-emphasizing its longerstanding chemical business.

"We believe today, as we did in the fall of 2007, that the growth of this company is absolutely, directly correlated to the value of our seeds and traits on the farm," Grant said during a conference call Wednes-

Monsanto is moving ahead aggressively with its plan to release corn plants with multiple engineered genes, called SmartStax corn, during 2010, Grant said. A boost in sales of the more expensive SmartStax seeds helped Monsanto boost its corn seed profits by 10 percent during the fourth quarter.

The company posted a \$114 million charge for its restructuring plan that started in the summer and will cut 900 jobs, or 4 percent of its work force. Grant said the jobs cuts will help Monsanto focus more on selling seeds than chemicals.

The company's stock fell \$1.06, or 1.4 percent, to \$74.30

Colleagues remember Nobel Prize winner

thousands to work to feed the world'

(AP)—Colleagues and friends of Norman Borlaug remembered the Nobel Peace Prize winner on Tuesday as a humanitarian who "built armies of agricultural workers" to combat famine in the world's developing countries. Defense Secretary Robert

Gates, who was president of Texas A&M University during the scientist's tenure at the school, told about 1,000 who attended the memorial that Borlaug was a teacher, a scientist and a war-

rior against hunger. He "inspired thousands to work to feed the world, and inspired millions to believe it's

possible. Our most important

observance of Norm's passing,"

work and in that belief. Borlaug was known as the

father of the "green revolution," which transformed agriculture

yield, disease-resistant crop varieties and other innovations, helping to more than double world food production between 1960 and



1990. Many experts credit the

Borlaug, who was 95 when he died Sept. 12 from complications of cancer, was described Tuesday as a humble, compassionate, soft-spoken and dedicated man who believed all have a duty to contribute to the eradi-

Regulator to review health risk of atrazine

By DINA CAPPIELLO **Associated Press**

WASHINGTON (AP) -The Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that it will re-evaluate the health effects of a popular weed killer that has been found in drinking water supplies in the United

The EPA will take another look at the science on atrazine, a herbicide commonly used on corn (maize) and other crops, and decide whether further restrictions are needed to protect human health. Research has shown that runoff after rainstorms can wash the chemical into streams and rivers, where it can enter drinking water sup-

EPA monitoring of 150 drinking water systems in the American Midwest, where the chem-

ical is used most heavily, have

not detected it at concentrations that would trigger health problems, including cancer. But new studies have shown that even at low levels atrazine in drinking water can cause low birth weights, birth defects and reproductive problems. In 2003, under the George W.

Bush administration, the EPA allowed the continued use of atrazine with few restrictions. Environmentalists

Wednesday, Oct. 7 hoped the new review would lead to the chemical being phased out. 'The hope is that they will

decide at the end of the day that they should be regulating it more stringently, or they will just take if off the market," said Mae Wu, an attorney with the Natural Resources Defense Council. The NRDC sued the EPA in 2003 for failing to evaluate adequately atrazine's effects on endangered species.

If you see a misstatement,

company's majority owner. Feds to rewrite Borlaug 'inspired food safety rules FRESNO, Calif. (AP) -

COLLEGE STATION, Texas

Gates said, is to persist in that

through high-

green revolution with averting global famine during the second half of the 20th century and saving perhaps 1 billion lives.

cation of hunger worldwide.

AG rules agency cannot reduce volume of water drawn from exempt wells

By MATTHEW WEAVER Capital Press

Washington cattle producers say they are relieved that stock watering options remain the same in the wake of a legal opinion limiting the Department of Ecology's authority over water rights.

State Attorney General Rob McKenna issued an opinion last month that the state Department of Ecology cannot reduce exempt withdrawals of groundwater below those specified under the law.

The opinion also concluded the department can temporarily stop water from further appropriations if enough data are not available to evaluate the impacts on senior water rights.

However, the department does not have the authority to reduce the volume of water withdrawn through exempt wells, McKenna said.

'If you have a home, a half-acre lawn and garden, or you have livestock you're watering, you get one 5,000-gallon-aday exemption for your home, another for your lawn and garden and a third for stock water," said Dan Partridge, communications manager for the Department of Ecology water resources program. The stock water exemption is unlimited.

Washington Cattlemen's Association Vice President Jack Field said the issue is especially important in northern Kittitas County. Due to concerns about the impact on the aquifer, the department had placed a moratorium on new wells for domestic use, Field said.

County commissioners were concerned about a potential precedent, enabling the department to limit arbitrarily the development or use of wells, Field said.

The cattlemen's association was especially concerned because stock watering was included in the moratorium. A 2005 opinion from the attorney general found the exemption for stock watering is un-

"We don't see a huge number of livestock operations wanting to be sited in the upper county tomorrow," Field said. "If a precedent was set, you had to purchase mitigation water before you could drill a stock water well. We were quite concerned that would set a very bad precedent for the future of the livestock industry in Washington state.'

Cattle Producers of Washington President Wade King said the opinion strengthens the cattlemen's position.

"Right now, the law is protecting us," he said. "We're glad to hear Rob McKen-



Washington State Attorney General Rob McKenna, left, discusses information with cattle producer Todd Kelsey, center, and Willard Wolf during the Cattle Producers of Washington annual

Does opinion affect stock water lawsuit?

meeting Sept. 26 in Spokane Valley, Wash.

A state attorney general's opinion limiting the Department of Ecology's power over water withdrawals will have no effect on a lawsuit against a new feedlot, an assistant attorney general said.

"That issue was not in play in this most recent attorney general's opinion," Assistant Attorney General Alan Reichman said.

Franklin County farmer Scott Collin, Five Corners Family Farmers, the Center for Environmental Law and Policy and the Sierra Club are suing Easterday Ranches, Washington state and the Department of Ecology to require the proposed 30,000-cow feedlot to obtain a groundwater permit for all of its stock wa-

The Washington Cattlemen's Association supports the attorney general's opinion and the stock watering exemption and has filed a request to intervene in the Easterday case to explain the importance of the exemption to the industry, Vice President Jack Field said.

— Matthew Weaver

na feels the way he does, that the law speaks for itself. It's very plain, and he's comfortable defending it.

While the Ecology Department knows what it "can or can't do" in Kittitas Coun-

Online

Access the Sept. 21 opinion at the Washington State Attorney General's Office website at www.atg.wa.gov.

ty, Partridge said, department attorneys and the attorney general's office are analyzing the effects on other river basins.

"We're evaluating our options right now on where we go from here," Partridge said. "Technically, we don't have to follow the opinion, but as a practical matter, we probably will in developing our water policy in Kittitas County and elsewhere in the state."

The opinion points out the importance of obtaining water rights and mitigation water for exempt well use, Partridge said. Then the chances of water being cut off during drought or shortages are reduced significantly, he said. The opinion has "limited the options

we can use in regulating exempt wells in river basins," Partridge said. "It looks like our primary option is closing an entire river basin to new groundwater withdrawals if we want to regulate the use of exempt wells in that particular area."

Field was glad to see the stock watering exemption maintained in its entire-

"When people talk about stock water, they may only be thinking about dairies and feedlots," Field said. "But if they make a change, it's going to trickle down and it will impact your neighbor that's got a handful of cows, potentially.'

key to pork exports

China's poultry called

Domestic producers urge U.S. to lift ban on Chinese imports

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS Capital Press

The National Pork Producers Council is hopeful that congressional intention to lift a ban on poultry imports from China will result in regained markets for U.S. pork in Chi-

In late September, conferees agreed on language allowing USDA to use appropriated funds in fiscal year 2010 to implement a rule allowing imports of processed poultry or poultry products from China.

While imports have been banned since 2006 because of food-safety issues, USDA has not even been allowed funding to do a risk assessment of Chinese-processed poultry, said Dave Warner, National Pork's director of communications

National Pork Producers was part of a coalition of agriculture and business organizations that urged Congress to look closely at the issue, and it is pleased conferees moved forward.

"It sends a strong signal to China that the U.S. abides by its trade obligations and will base decisions about imports on sound science," said Don Butler, president of the National Pork Producers Council. "We expect China to do the same.

He said China is an important market for U.S. pork and exports to China are the council's No. 1 trade priority.

As the world's biggest exporter of pork, the U.S. pork industry has a compelling interest in making sure foreign governments base their trade decisions on science. Last year, the industry exported nearly \$5 billion of pork, including almost \$690 million to China, the second-largest destination.

That's changed drastically this year, adding to the eco-

Online

National Pork Producers Council: www.nppc.org

nomic crisis pork producers have suffered for two years, losing \$22.50 per pig, Warner said.

A big factor in lost exports is the ban China placed on U.S. pork after the April 24 finding of the H1N1 virus, which has been commonly referred to as swine flu.

Lost exports of U.S. pork from April to until Sept. 1 totaled \$1.1 billion, Warner said. Nearly 30 countries put some restriction on U.S pork following H1N1, even though people can't get the flu by eating or handling pork. China's ban is still in place.

Doing a science-based risk assessment on China's poultry processing and lifting the ban on imports, if appropriate, are important to the U.S. pork industry, he said.

"It's important we do that if we're asking China and other trade partners to base their trading decisions on science," he said.

China has also restricted U.S. pork exports if the swine were raised using ractopamine. a feed additive that helps produce muscle mass, Warner

The ingredient is FDA-approved with a withdrawal period before pigs go to processing. It has been approved in 24 countries including some Asian nations and is at the final step of inclusion in the U.N.'s internationally recognized standards.

Yet China bans pork from swine whose feed contains it.

That decision isn't based on science, and it harms U.S. pork producers, he said.

"We think everyone ought to have their trade decisions, safety of the product, based on science," he said.

Staff writer Carol Ryan Dumas is based in Twin Falls. E-mail: crdumas@capitalpress.com.

Canola by any other name ...

State's oilseed restrictions too broad, forcing revision

By MITCH LIES Capital Press

SALEM—The contentious debate over whether to allow canola production in certain parts of Oregon is back — and well before expected.

The issue — thought to be put to bed for the next three years — has resurfaced because of an error in how the state described canola in its

In restricting production of Brassica rapa, Brassica napus and Brassica juncea scientific classifications associated with canola — the state in its rules inadvertently restricted production of Chinese cabbage, turnip, mustard and other crops.

"The intent was not to ban

ministrator of the Oregon Department of Agriculture's plant division. "It appears we have more work to do to clarify our

The department, Hilburn said, is weighing how to address the inadvertent restric-

He suspects the department can change the rules with a minimum of difficulty.

Small rule changes, such as changing dates, typically can be done without public hearings, he said.

Still, he said, the department will need to open the process to public comment and perform paperwork required of even minor rule changes.

"It'll take a lot of time," Hilburn said. "Rule-making is time-consuming."

Problems with the rules arose when the department tried to identify canola — a

production of Chinese cab- commercial term for the oil bage," said Dan Hilburn, ad- produced from the seed of canola plants — in scientific

> "In this case, the terms don't match up very well," he said.

> Hilburn said that to his understanding there is no unique scientific term for canola.

The state has asked Oregon State University to help it better define canola in the rules.

The state earlier this year restricted canola-for-oil and canola-for-seed production in the Willamette Valley, Central Oregon and two areas in Eastern Oregon where high-value specialty seed is produced.

Fears are that widespread canola production and the subsequent development of volunteer canola plants will increase insect and disease pressure in vegetable seed crops and lower some seed purity through cross-pollination.

The state plans to revisit the restrictions in three years.

Before the vote, there was rodeo

"The emancipation of women may have begun not with the vote, nor in the cities where women marched and carried signs and protested, but rather when they mounted a good cowhorse and realized how different and fine the view.... From the back of a horse, the world looked wider."

 Joyce Gibson Roach, The Cowgirls, 1990

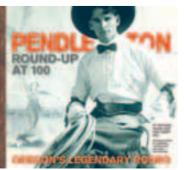


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41-6/#13

Farm Bureau lists health needs

Ag concerns include care providers, insurance tax credits

By DAVE WILKINS Capital Press

Agriculture didn't exactly lead the charge for health care reform, but there are some things that farm groups want in any bill that Congress may pass this

Farm and rural advocacy groups want the government to tackle the shortage of health care facilities, primary care doctors and other health professionals in rural areas.

They also want provisions that ensure that farmers and ranchers are able to afford coverage for themselves and their families — and if they choose to provide it — for their work-

Online

American Farm Bureau Federation: www.fb.org

The American Farm Bureau Federation wants a bill that would allow agricultural operations that employ seasonal workers to qualify for small

business tax credits to help cover health care costs. AFBF President Bob Stallman told the Senate Finance Committee in a recent letter that a draft bill under consideration by the committee could dis-

ers from such tax credits. The provision would obligate employers of 50 or more workers to reimburse the government for tax credits used by their employees to purchase health insurance.

qualify many farmers and ranch-

Seasonal workers hired for only a few weeks during harvest could easily push many small farms or ranches over the 50-worker threshold, Stallman wrote.

"Farm Bureau urges the addition of language to ensure that small farm and rancher employers who hire temporary or seasonal workers are not required to reimburse the government for health care affordability credits," Stallman wrote in the letter.

"Health care reform will have a huge impact on the cost, quality and availability of the health insurance that farmers purchase for themselves and their families and for the workers they employ," he wrote.

The Farm Bureau is opposed to the so-called public option and instead supports voluntary regional health insurance cooperatives.

Oregon asks for guidance on water projects

'Peak and ecological flows' stipulation needs translation

By MITCH LIES
Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon Water Resources Department is looking outside the department to help it interpret new environmental stipulations attached to the allocation of state funds for water storage projects.

Oregon Water Resources Department Director Phil Ward said at a legislative committee hearing Oct. 1 the state would like help in interpreting "peak and ecological flows."

Under a law adopted earlier this year, the state may require applicants to protect "peak and ecological flows" before it provides money for water storage projects.

The language changes from "may" require to "shall" require beginning in 2012.

The department has hired a former Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife scientist to help it determine the state's responsibilities in administering the programs, Ward said.

But, he said, the department also wants help from scientists outside the agency to ensure its analyses of "peak and ecological flows" are based on sound science.

Oregon lawmakers last session inserted the protections in two funding programs administered by the department.

John DeVoe, executive director of WaterWatch, said the protections ensure projects aren't harmful to fish or the environment.

"It's important to maintain a suite of flow types for river health," DeVoe said.

"As we go into a phase where we may be looking at more (water) storage, we need to make sure that below these projects, we aren't sterilizing rivers by removing peak and ecological flows from the system," he said.

The state has addressed peak flows in the past, said Anita Winkler, executive director of Oregon Water Resources Congress. But it has little to no experience addressing ecological flows. The water-user community is concerned over how the state will define "ecological flows," she said.

It could be, Winkler said, that protecting ecological flows is so cumbersome water users will avoid tapping the state funds. Protection for

Ward

the flows is included in House Bill 3369.

Lawmakers in the multi-part bill put \$2.5 million in lotterybacked bonds into an Eastern Oregon aquifer recharge project.

The project could pump millions of dollars into Umatilla Basin agriculture by providing farmers with enough water to produce high-value crops. The basin's farmers have been cut off from groundwater for portions of the irrigation season for several years due to declining aquifers.

Under the law, that project is exempt from the peak and ecological flow stipulations.

HB3369 also made available \$10 million in lottery-backed general obligation bonds in the state's Water Development Loan Fund for implementation and construction of water storage projects. The loan fund increases to \$15 million in the next biennium. Projects funded through this program must address the new flow stipulations.

Lawmakers also created the Water Investment Grant Fund, but stopped short of putting money into the new fund.

It, too, is subject to the new flow stipulations.

Canadian trucks skirt scales

Spokane County to check cattle trucks on side roads

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Cindy Marshall has observed many Canadian cattle trucks bypassing the scales at the port of entry near her Otis Orchards, Wash., house.

"Sometimes you can sit there and count up to 16 of them within an hour's period," she said.

The trucks head down side roads to get onto Interstate 90, Marshall said, and she has even followed some of them.

"For some reason, they're bypassing the first scale as they come into the state," she said. "My first red flag that goes up is, Why? My biggest issue is the health of these cattle coming down from Canada into our slaughterhouses."

That's a concern shared by rancher Wade King and other cattle producers.

No one verifies whether the animals meet the state's health requirements, the Cattle Producers of Washington president said. If they go through the ports of entry, it would provide one more check in the system.

"Right now, our state veterinarian doesn't know until about two weeks later that the cattle trucks have entered our



Capital Press file phot

A rancher loads cattle into a truck to be transported. The Spokane County, Wash., Sheriff's Office is emphasizing enforcement of trucking regulations and stopping trucks from bypassing ports of entry.

state," he said.

There are also concerns that the trucks are entering Washington from Canada through Idaho without being checked at Washington's borders.

"There's no weight (checks) on these trucks coming in and we know these trucks are overloaded," King said. "They're driving around every scale they can to get to their destination, wherever that may be."

The trucks can legally haul more weight in Canada than they can in Washington, King said. King said some perpetrators have placed harassing phone calls to him and other CPOW members.

"They don't want any interruption of these cheap, imported cattle," he said.

There is also a concern that Washington's producers are incorrectly being blamed by the public for the damage the trucks cause to the roads.

The Spokane County Sheriff's Office will emphasize enforcement of trucking regulations and trucks bypassing the scales at ports of entry.

"We're going to be looking for weight violations," Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said. "The only reason I can think anybody would want to bypass the port of entry and scales could be weight restrictions."

Knezovich said he's received many complaints from neighborhoods about trucks on county roads, particularly cattle trucks.

"Our county roads are not designed to handle that type of weight on a consistent basis," he said. "Interstate 90 is. There's no reason for cattle trucks to bypass I-90."

Workshops tackle emissions reports

By MATTHEW WEAVER

Capital Press

The largest sources of greenhouse gas in Washington state, including food processors and vehicle fleets, have to report their emissions starting next year.

The Washington Department of Ecology is offering a series of workshops around the state about the new regulations and to help businesses comply with the new law.

The 2008 Washington State Legislature in House Bill 2815 required operators of vehicle fleets producing more than 2,500 metric tons of green-house gases per year and large stationary sources of green-house gases producing more than 10,000 metric tons per year to report their emissions in 2010.

At that time, lawmakers directed the department to adopt a rule for implementing an emissions reporting system.

Because of the high gas production threshold, individual farmers probably won't be impacted by the law, said Ecology Air Quality Program communications manager Seth Preston.

Agriculture's role in climate change remains up in the air, he said, in part because of such variables as changing production levels each year.

"Those things are being discussed at various levels," he said. "I just don't think there's any clear answers at this point."

One of the reasons the department is offering the workshops is the rules are a work in progress, Preston said.

The workshops will help owners and operators measure and calculate their emissions, Preston said. Public comments on the proposed rule can be submitted through Nov. 12. Written comments may be sent to Nancy Pritchett, Air Quality Program, Washington Department of Ecology, P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600 or to npri461@ecy.wa.gov.

Public hearings on the proposed rule are at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 3, in Spokane at the department's Eastern Regional Office, 4601 N. Monroe St., and at 6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 5, in Lacey, Wash., at the department's headquarters, 300 Desmond Drive S.E.



Fagan, Hailey will face off in general election

Rep. Don Cox announced he would not seek reelection.

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Two Republicans will face off in the Washington House District 9 race during the Nov. 3

general election.
Susan Fagan of Pullman,
Wash., and Pat Hailey of Mesa,
Wash., led the vote count in the
Aug. 18 primary election, according to election officials.

District 9 includes Adams, Asotin, Garfield, Whitman and parts of Franklin and Spokane counties.

Fagan received 6,509 votes for 29.3 percent of the total vote, and Hailey received 5,722 votes for 25.7 percent.

Democrat Glen Stockwell received 5,401 votes, or 24. 3 percent. Republicans Art Swannack and Darin Watkins received 2,747, or 12.3 percent, and 1,866, or 8.4 percent, respectively.

Under Washington law, the top two vote-getters in the primary run in the general election.

Rep. Don Cox of Colfax, Wash., announced in May he would not seek reelection. Cox was chosen in January to succeed Rep. Steve Hailey, who resigned from the Legislature in December and died after a yearlong battle with illness shortly after. Pat Hailey is Steve Hailey's widow.

In May, Doug Ellis, assistant director of the Washington State Public Disclosure Commission, told the Capital Press the winning candidate must also stand for reelection next year, when Hailey's unexpired term ends.

when Hailey's unexpired term ends.
Fagan owned a farm for more than 15 years, raising wheat, barley, lentils, peas and canola. Her sons now do all the farming,

she said. She also has experi-



Faga

ence working for several manufacturers and the U.S. Senate. She wants to see efforts con-

tinue to fund opportunity to increase agricultural markets.

"Opening markets and mak-

ing sure we serve the markets we currently have well is very important," she said. "We are the most trade-dependent state in the country, and a lot of that is based on our agricultural exports."

Fagan also pointed to the regular business issues that affect farmers, such as business and occupation taxes on agriculture and the reinstatement of Washington's death tax.

Hailey has owned a fourth-

generation wheat farm and cattle ranch outside Pasco, Wash., for 39 years. She has also served as an elected member of the local school board, and said education is another priority. She pointed to a water pol-

She pointed to a water policy that requires farmers to use their water or risk losing their water rights.

"That law does not incentivize water conservation," she said. "It causes you to use water when perhaps you didn't need to use water. In this day and time, water conservation is important."

Continually adding rules and regulations for Washington farmers doesn't give them advantages in the world market, Hailey said.

"We need to keep agriculture on the center of the plain in this state, because it is a \$22 billion industry," she said. "We need to keep it active and growing. That's a story that needs to be told in Olympia, and I can do that."

Water

River returns to natural flow

Unique system of water credits funds restoration of stream

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)— Lawrence Martin remembers from his boyhood how Evans Creek flowed like an artery in the Rogue River Valley— a deep, cold stream that gave life to salmon, steelhead and other species.

Then the forests upstream were clear-cut in the 1950s. Floods scoured out the channel and stripped the land of its topsoil. And, one summer, the creek went dry. It happened again. And again.

"I saw the ground losing productivity, and I saw our water resources dwindling, saw Evans Creek fading," said Martin, the third-generation owner of the J Diamond L, a ranch his grandfather founded.

A few years ago, he realized he couldn't keep irrigating all of the 100 acres of hay he farmed. But today, that has changed. Evans Creek has a healthy flow again, thanks to an innovative program by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation that aims to recharge once-thriving Northwest streams. The program, which acts similar to carbon offsets, essentially pays water-rights holders to leave the water in the stream. Because rights are based on a use-it-or-lose-it model, many users continue to draw water even if they don't need it or their irrigation is inrather than lose effective their claim.

The program allows them to stop using the water without losing their rights — while being compensated. Any company or individual can purchase water restoration certificates from the foundation to offset their water footprint. The water rights holders in turn are paid to leave water in the stream.

The voluntary program's



Mitch Lies/Capital

Lawrence Martin stands with some of about 7,000 ponderosa pine and Douglas fir trees that have been planted on his land under the Oregon Department of Forestry's "Farms to Forests" program.

first three customers have environmental ties — the Bullitt Foundation in Seattle, the Natural Resources Defense Council and White Wave Foods, a Broomfield, Colo.-based company that produces organic milk and soy products. Bonneville hopes to eventually expand the program across the nation.

"Gone are the days when water is viewed as a free commodity," said Ellen Feeney, vice president for responsible livelihood at White Wave Foods, which bought offsets for the 45,000 gallons of water used an-

nually at its headquarters and plans to include its four manufacturing plants. "It's a precious commodity."

The water restoration program is young but already is showing improved fish habitat on Evans Creek, the Middle Deschutes River and the Prickly Pear Creek basin near Helena, Mont.

"The effect is very, very direct," said Rob Harmon, the foundation's chief innovation officer and senior vice president. It creates habitat where there was no habitat before. And the amazing thing about

nature is when you give it a chance, it thrives."

The Portland-based non-profit promotes renewable energy, watershed restoration and other programs that help individuals and businesses shrink their carbon footprints.

"We have a budding water crisis," Harmon said. "We have companies that are looking seriously not just at their energy footprint or their carbon footprint, but at their water footprint. They're doing a lot of conservation, but they still have a residual water footprint."

According to the foundation, the average U.S. household uses 127,400 gallons of water annually, the equivalent of 127.4 water restoration certificates, which would sell for \$127.40.

The independent foundation acts as a middleman, finding customers who want to buy certificates and negotiating leases with water-rights holders. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation approves the criteria for the certificate projects; water trust organizations, such as the Deschutes River Conservancy and The Freshwater Trust, lease the rights and do the on-the-stream work.

Martin, who signed a 29-year water-rights lease with The Freshwater Trust, took advantage of the Oregon Department of Forestry's Farms to Forests program and has planted about 7,000 ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir on his now non-irrigated acres.

He hopes the cycle of timber crops will provide for his children and grandchildren as they reach retirement.

And the 70-year-old hopes to see Evans Creek, to which his family has held water rights since 1902, return to its natural flow.

"From the time I was a kid," he said, "I thought of this place as sacred ground."

Lawmakers near water agreement

Funding will likely include combination of user fees, bonds

By WES SANDER Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — Law-makers have spent much of the past week negotiating a package of water bills left unfinished in September, hoping to hammer out a deal that the legislature could approve in the next few days.

The bills are aimed at restructuring the governance and

management of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta while improving water delivery. The pack-

age would include new storage infrastruc-

ture, but lawmakers have yet to finalize how it would be funded. Meanwhile, state Treasur-

er Bill Lockyer on Oct. 1 released a debt report recommending that water infrastructure not be funded with bonds backed by the general fund. "Further increasing the gen-

eral fund's debt burden, especially in the next three difficult budgets, would require cutting even deeper into crucial services already reeling from billions of dollars in reductions," he said in a statement.

Sen. Dave Cogdill, R-

Modesto, said Lockyer's recommendation clashes with the progress legislators have made toward negotiating a generalobligation bond. "I don't think there's any

other way to do it, frankly," Cogdill said. "(Lockyer's comment) certainly is out of step with things we've done."

Cogdill, the GOP leader on

water issues in the Senate, has introduced a \$12 billion water bond that would be backed entirely by the general fund. It allocates \$3 billion for new storage projects, which are expected to cost \$8 billion. The remaining \$5 billion would be paid by user fees, Cogdill says.

Future governors and lawmakers should be able to handle the resulting debt load with proper planning, Cogdill said.

"I think that legislatures in the future are going to have to make some hard decisions about priorities," he said. "I don't believe there's anything more important for our state than making the kind of improvements we're talking about in water infrastructure."

Assemblywoman Anna Caballero, D-Salinas, has sponsored the Democratic water bill, which Cogdill says is "practically identical" to his own.

She has said she would support a combination of general-obligation debt and user fees.

"As long as it's something that's fair to all parties, it's something that should be considered," said Aracely Campa, spokeswoman for Caballero. "I think that we're definitely going to have to get creative."

Sen. Sam Aanestad, R-Grass Valley, who sits on the conference committee that hashed out the water bills in August and September, says direct beneficiaries should pay for any new infrastructure, including storage, that would help to reliably send water south.

That said, Aanestad says north-state residents are willing to share in the cost for new infrastructure with an eye to securing area-of-origin water rights in the future. That's because a reliable water-conveyance system reduces chances of future legal challenges to the century-old water rights held by many north-state landowners, Aanestad says.

Feds shorted water districts, judge decides in Calif. case

Agency ruled liable for breaching water delivery contracts

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI

Capital Press

A group of California irrigators and other water users will be able to seek damages from the federal government for withholding water due to environmental restrictions.

A federal appeals court has decided the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is liable for breaching contracts with the Stockton East Water District and Central San Joaquin Water Conservation District.

The ruling reverses a lower court's decision, which found that environmental laws allowed the agency to violate water delivery contracts with

the districts.

"We hope the decision shakes things up at the Bureau of Reclamation and makes them take our contract seriously," said Jennifer Spaletta, an attorney representing the water users. "Money was always a second priority."

The districts originally sought \$500 million in damages, but that is expected to be re-evaluated, she said.

Aspects of the water delivery contracts were unique in this case, but some policy issues may apply to other irrigation disputes in the U.S., she said.

How that plays out will depend on lower courts' interpretation of the opinion, Spaletta said. "It really remains to be seen if the decision has a precedential effect for others."

The U.S. Justice Department, which represented the bureau in this case, cannot comment on the ruling's potential consequences, said spokesman Andrew Ames. As for the possibility of an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, it's too early to make a decision, he said.

make a decision, he said. "In that it's just come down,



we're still reviewing it and no determination has been made as to our next step," Ames said.

The lawsuit stems from the bureau's construction of the New Melones dam on the Stanislaus River, which was authorized by Congress in 1962 and finished in 1979

The 2.4 million acre foot dam was controversial from the start, as it flooded several archeological, geological and recreational sites.

In 1983, the two districts contracted with the bureau to deliver water to their irrigation facilities, after which they built a \$65 million delivery system.

The districts had not yet asked for water from the agency in 1992, when Congress passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The law required irrigation projects to release large amounts of water for fish and wildlife habitat.

The districts did not ask for deliveries until 1993 because time was needed for permitting and construction, Spaletta said.

Due to provisions in the new law, the bureau did not deliver the water requested by the districts. That prompted them to sue, alleging the government took their water rights without just compensation

without just compensation.

In later years, the bureau failed to deliver the contracted amounts of water. The suit dragged on for more than a decade, and the districts also alleged the bureau had violat-

ed its contractual obligations.

"This area has been paying for the bonds on the conveyance facility and has never received the benefits of the contract," Spaletta said.

In 2006, a federal judge agreed the bureau had breached its contracts with the districts, but found that environmental laws permitted that.

Specifically, provisions in the contracts allowed the bureau to withhold deliveries due to water shortages or other conditions beyond the government's contract the index roled.

ment's control, the judge ruled.

The judge also dismissed the districts' claim that the bureau violated their constitutional rights by taking private property— in this case, water

— without just compensation.

The districts appealed the ruling, and on Sept. 30, a three-judge panel from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit reversed the decision.

Although the contracts did allow the bureau to withhold water due to events beyond its control, those provisions only pertain to droughts, earthquakes, sabotage or similar circumstances, the appeals court ruled in a 2-1 majority opinion.

"By contrast, changes in law, or changes in government policy, or changes in management practices brought about by the government's changes in law or policy, are all causes within the control of the United States," the opinion said. The government owes damages for failing to deliver enough water to the districts during several years, excluding those years when shortages were beyond their control, according to the decision.

The case has been sent back to the lower court to determine the amount of damages.

The appeals court also ruled the districts' constitutional claims should not have been dismissed, which opens the way for them to sue for insufficient water deliveries during other years.



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Give Klamath process time to work

Editorial

t's another typical water year in the Klamath Basin, which straddles Oregon and California. Water is scarce. Despite sporadic fits of fall rain, migrating salmon in one upstream tributary of the mighty stream remain "kegged up" in deep water pools, waiting for enough runoff to make their run to spawning grounds in the shadow of Mount Shasta.

What makes this year different is the draft Klamath Settlement Agreement of Sept. 30, written into final form four months after major governmental parties and PacifiCorp, operator of controversial dams on the upper Klamath, promised the document would be ready.

Not so different is that some significant players in the often stormy eight-year debate continued condemning the deal. Or that major news media, including the national-opinion-making New York Times, treat the draft agreement as a done-dam-removal deal.

It isn't. A New York Times editorial Oct. 3 declared "four dams on the Klamath River will be removed to restore imperiled salmon runs" and called that a victory for fish, farmers, Indian tribes and the Endangered Species Act. This is hardly a victory when three years of



Rik Dalvit/For the Capital Press

study, then seven years of engineering preparations, are envisioned before dam removal might take place in 2020.

But it is time to celebrate two significant parts of the draft agreement.

First, the Obama administration is now advocating a deal launched by the Bush administration with prodding from the

governors of California and Oregon.

Second, PacifiCorp, which will have to come up with alternate power generation facilities that will certainly be much more expensive than a system which came online in 1918, remains a supporter of the deal even though it stayed away from the separate Klamath Basin

Restoration agreement. By reference, that restoration pact becomes part of the most recent deal.

The basin and the nation have come a long way since 2001, when U.S. marshals were called out to guard the headgates of the Klamath Reclamation Project three months into the drought-triggered cutoff of irrigation wa-

ter deliveries to an estimated 1,100 farms. There's a long way to go before the vision of a \$1 billion restoration agreement has a chance of becoming reality.

In the next 21/2 years, the U.S. Department of Interior—whose secretary last week promised to sign the agreement—becomes leader in one of

Online poll

Do you believe the Klamath dams really will be taken out?

To vote in this week's online poll, go to www.capitalpress.com.

the most complex environmental studies ever. The department will have to judge, using the National Environmental Policy Act standards informed by Endangered Species Act protections for two of the basin's fish, whether taking out those dams is the rational thing to do.

If it is, and Congress agrees with enabling legislation, not only will dam removal go forward, but the pending renewal of PacifiCorp's license to operate those dams will be resolved. Annual licenses have been issued since 2006, when the 50-year Klamath permit expired.

That study by Interior is going to produce reams of data, probably providing both advocates of dam removal and those having reservations about it with reasons to review their positions. We urge not only the major parties — the two states, federal government and power company — but all of the dozens of other stakeholders, to step back and let the review happen.

Sign on for the process. Give it time to work.

Cattle case deserves explanation | Review of water

SLIPPING BY THE BOVINE HEALTH SCRUTNY

Editorial

Then 402 cattle cross the Canada border destined for a feedlot in Washington state and instead show up on a ranch 200 miles away, someone has a lot of explaining to do.

In fact, a lot of people have explaining to do — the truckers, cattle owner, rancher, processor, USDA and the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

That's the crux of the investigation the state Department of Agriculture and the USDA have undertaken during the past three months.

The type of tests and paperwork required for a direct trip to the feedlot are different from those required for cattle going to pasture, so authorities at the state and federal level want to know exactly what happened and how it happened.

But this investigation is not solely about paperwork. The threat of disease is a top-of-mind issue for cattle producers in Washington state, where the first case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy in the U.S. showed up in 2003 — in a dairy cow imported from Canada.

Since then, authorities have been on red alert in an attempt to make sure that all precautionary measures are followed and that the mad cow nightmare is not repeated.

That's what makes this case

so perplexing. That seven truckloads of cattle can be misdirected raises questions about how well those measures are followed.

Dan Newhouse, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, said recently that he and his department are intent on getting to the bottom of this incident and working with other state departments, including the attorney general, to make sure it doesn't happen again.

"I understand that not only my, but the department's, credibility is on the line with this issue," he said. "We understand the seriousness of it."

To its credit, Agri Beef Co., the large Boise, Idaho-based beef processor, came forward with an explanation of what happened and what was supposed to happen

posed to happen.

Agri Beef said last month that documentation related to the 198 spayed heifers and 204 steers incorrectly stated the destination to be the Agri Beefowned El Oro feedlot in Moses Lake, Wash. Instead, the cattle went to a ranch near Northport, Wash., just over the border with Canada.

State regulations don't require the testing of cattle headed directly for a feedlot.

The processor has been forthcoming in accepting responsibility for its part of the problem

"Clearly, we made a mis-

take," Agri Beef Executive Vice President Rick Stott told the Capital Press last month. "We're willing to make good on anything that would happen negatively for this reason. We're very willing and open to step up and take responsibility and make sure there's no impact to the cattlemen in and around that area."

Rik Dalvit/For the Capital Press

What remains to be seen is whether the federal and state authorities take responsibility for whatever part they played and what they plan to do about

As authorities sort out this case, cattle producers look forward to a complete and thorough explanation — and assurance that it won't happen again.

Review of water decisions needed

T.S. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., is seeking a high-level scientific review of recent endangered-species decisions that are a primary cause for the economic devastation that has been leveled on rural communities in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the world's most productive farmland areas.

And she is already getting hammered for daring to suggest such an idea.

Some environmental groups claim that recent biological opinions for endangered fish in Bay-Delta completed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service were "exhaustively peer-reviewed by other scientific

agencies." Many of those impacted by these decisions on the ground disagree. Our organization the Family Farm Alliance – filed suit in July to force the withdrawal of the federal government's latest order cutting back California's water supplies on behalf of the Delta smelt. It is not a step we took lightly. We want the court to order USFWS to revise its biological opinion to comply with the standards for the use of data that the Endangered Species Act and the Information Quality Act have set to protect the public and the environment from arbitrary, biased and unscientific abuses of federal authority.

USFWS failed to comply with the most fundamental requirements of IQA and ESA regarding the quality, objectivity, utility and integrity of scientific decision-making by federal agencies.

The opinion on smelt was based upon assumptions, not data. The methods relied upon were not transparent, the analysis was not reproducible, and the peer review employed was not competent and credible due to its lack of independence and expertise.

Federal law requires US-FWS to base a biological opinion of this kind on the best available scientific and commercial data—not on supposition, speculation or assumptions about the outcome that the regulators want to impose.

The existing biological opinion does not meet that standard. Notably, instead of conducting the independent peer review that the law requires, USFWS brought in the authors of the papers on which the agency's order was based. In effect, they were being asked to review the adequacy of their own work.

Guest comment Dan Keppen



This level of review would not qualify under the standards set by ESA or the IQA. Further, although ESA requires USFWS to use the best available scientific and commercial data, the agency instead based its findings in part on an analysis which had not been published or peer reviewed and, supposedly, on data which USFWS refused even to disclose.

Moreover, it turns out the agency did not actually possess some of the data that it claimed it used to order the cutbacks in years supplies

water supplies.

I suspect that some within USFWS, and their allies in the environmental community, know that an independent peer review conducted in an open and rigorous manner would quickly pick

up on these deficiencies.

The resulting publicity, no doubt, would tarnish their credibility and undermine their arguments that state and federal pumps are the primary stressor to Delta smelt.

So, environmental activists are now busy trying to find ways to trash Feinstein's request by suggesting that wealthy agricultural interests will somehow find a way to corrupt the highest body of science in the land.

For the family farmers, ranchers and farm workers who are suffering the consequences of the flawed 2008 Delta smelt decision, the efforts to minimize the significance of an independent peer review conducted by the National Academy of Sciences are absurd.

Desperate communities in the Central Valley were looked in the eye this year and told, "Sorry, we know it may hurt, but 'the science' is compelling and requires you to go without water."

This was wrong, literally, and as a matter of policy. For whatever reason, the agencies have become too close to, and too much a part of, the side-taking that has come to dominate issues surrounding the bay and Delta.

For this reason alone, outside review is needed. Feinstein deserves kudos for advocating for such an approach.

Dan Keppen is executive director of the Family Farm Alliance, a grass-roots group of farmers and ranchers.

Don't delay details on climate costs

Editorial

emocratic Sens. Barbara Boxer and John Kerry have opened debate in the Senate on climate change by introducing a bill that would reduce carbon emissions in the U.S. by 20 percent by 2020.

It is a companion piece to a

measure that narrowly passed the House earlier this year after it was made barely palatable to farm interests through the bipartisan work of that body's Agriculture Committee.

In a nutshell, both bills seek to reduce the amount of carbon emitted by 83 percent by 2050. While the House bill set a 17 percent reduction by 2020, the Senate bill pushes a 20 percent goal by that date.

Both bills would allow highemission industries, coal-fired power plants for instance, to buy offsets provided by projects or industries that capture and store carbon — a landowner who plants trees on a woodlot, for example.

But where the House bill guarantees agriculture offsets for qualifying production techniques, Boxer-Kerry included no such language. And where the House bill gave the USDA the lead role in deciding how those ag offsets would be determined, the Senate bill gives sole authority to the president to decide which agency would be in charge.

There are other good reasons to be skeptical of the Senate's bill, not the least of which is its authors' frequent tendency to postpone addressing more controversial details to a later date. While that's a popular legislative tactic that's often used to move stalled legislation forward, the details of how the entire economy will be reordered to meet the bill's goals are pretainmentant.

ty important.

Certainly the Boxer-Kerry
bill isn't the final word on climate change from the Senate,

Placing restrictions on carbon emissions will make energy, and products that are energy intensive, more expensive. Consumers in general, and farmers in particular, are going to pay a lot more money to conduct daily business.

and its passage is far from certain. There are many in the wings with suggestions to change it. Even so, it has a ways to go before it could be said to be only as bad as the House bill.

As a side note, a few months.

As a side note, a few months back Sens. Mike Johanns, R-Neb., Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., and other Republican ag committee members asked the USDA to provide a detailed crop-by-crop, region-by-region analysis of how growers would be impacted by the increased cost of inputs caused by the House bill, and the potential benefits farmers would receive

by selling the offsets it provides.

The department had prepared a cursory 13-page document that was short on specifics, but promised more research as the process wore on. Those details would be of enormous value now, but have yet to surface. Placing restrictions on carbon emissions will make an

Placing restrictions on carbon emissions will make energy, and products that are energy intensive, more expensive. Consumers in general, and farmers in particular, are going to pay a lot more money to conduct daily business.

Putting a cost on the bill is not one of those details that should be postponed until later.





Drop in output offers hope

slowdown in milk production is leading to the recovery of milk prices, says Bob Cropp, professor emeritus at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He called the recovery a slow

"With a loss in the export market, particularly in powder and of course cheese and butter, with butter being way down, we've had to get milk production down," Cropp said. He pointed out that August output was only down 0.2 percent, but he believes that some of the strength in the market "might be just the fact that milk production is down seasonally and fluid sales are up a little bit."

Cropp remains optimistic that the federal order Class III price will rise to around \$14 by the end of the year. He believes the market is going to be stronger than what some believe and said, "I think the futures are a little pessimistic in the long term. Production coming down and cow numbers declining, there will be some signs of improvement."

New program

A new FARM animal wellbeing program aims to bolster consumer trust in the U.S. dairy industry. FARM stands for Farmers Assuring Responsible Management.

The National Milk Producers Federation announced the initiative's guidelines and principles last year at World Dairy Expo in Madison. A news conference was held to discuss how the industry is going to demonstrate to customers and consumers that dairy animals are being well cared for.

A comprehensive animal care resource manual was unveiled, along with a quick reference user guide and other materials. Those items will be used to help educate farmers, processors, retailers and consumers about the best practices for animal care.

"We will use these materials to reach out to the entire marketing chain, particularly for those companies that may want to demonstrate their animal care commitment," said NMPF's Chris Galen. He called it a corroboration of what most dairy producers are already do-

"We are in an environment where food production is increasingly under the spotlight, and there is concern from consumers where food comes from. who processes it and who pro-

duces it," he said. Producers can expect an onfarm evaluation process next year by the farms and marketing entities who choose to take part. A trained veterinarian, extension educator or a co-op field staff person will go through the guidelines on the farm. In 2011, a third-party verification will take place, where a small sampling of farms will be visited by someone who's not affiliated with the farm to demonstrate that the program is work-

"Those are things that still have to come," Galen said. "And this week's unveiling was a huge step in the National Dairy FARM program."

Lee Mielke is a syndicated columnist and farm broadcaster based in Lynden, Wash. For more Dairyline go to www.capitalpress.com and click on "Dairy."

Online

Register at capitalpress.com and get free dairy updates in your

Exports show signs of recovery

Spokeswoman says numbers indicate 'slow and steady improvement'

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS Capital Press

While most U.S. dairy exports are below year-ago levels, the trend line is improving and the U.S. Dairy Export Council has refocused some of its efforts at retaining markets and building long-term opportuni-

The total value of U.S. dairy exports from January through July was \$1.258 billion, down by nearly half during the same period in 2008. But because prices fluctuate so dramatically, tracking volumes is a much better indicator, said Margaret Speich, the Export Council's vice president of communications. This year's seven-month export volumes from January through July were 26 percent below what they were in the same period last year.

"Since July, our exports have been making slow and steady improvement," she said. "We're seeing exports beginning to show some life. Things are picking up and moving up slightly. We're seeing some improve-

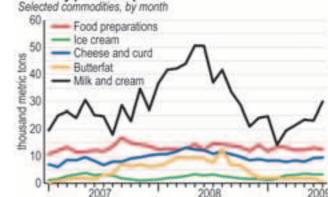
Overall, exports of cheese, nonfat dry milk and skim milk powder and lactose continued to improve in July, but shipments of whey and butterfat lagged.

While most export groups were in the minus column, some were tracking higher in July, bright spots in this economic downturn.

Milk powder exports in July at 28,172 tons — were at their highest this year, though still 8 percent below July 2008, Speich said. For January to July, those exports were down 48 percent from 2008.

Cheese exports in July were the highest since last October, though still down 13 percent from July 2008 and down 27 percent year to date.

U.S. dairy product exports



Brian Gould of University of Wisconsin-Madison

Year-to-date cheese sales to Mexico are up 13 percent, Speich said.

"The trend line is going up gradually," she added.

Milk solids exports, something the council uses to evaluate overall health of the export market, are at 8.5 percent in the first seven months of the year, compared with 10.8 percent in all of 2008.

"That's a fairly significant drop, but 8.5 percent has kind of been holding and still represents a lot of milk still being exported," Speich said.

Exports of whey protein and isolate in July also continued to track higher, though shipments of dry whey dropped dramatically. That brought July numbers of total whey protein down 31 percent from July 2008, 2 percent below year-to-date

Lactose was up 21 percent in July and 9 percent above year-

"Things are holding up, we're seeing some encouraging signs, but we think 2010 will be challenging in terms of exports," Speich said. "But economic growth is trending upward.

Economic growth rate in China, a big market for U.S. dairy exports, is 5 percent to 6 percent. While 10 percent to 12 percent is the recent norm, economic growth is on an upward

"That helps build demand. We are seeing demand pick up in Asian markets," she said.

However, credit issues remain a challenge for overseas customers.

Another indicator is worldwide inventories.

"They're high in Oceania, the European Union and elsewhere, and buyers aren't apt to make aggressive or big purchases," she said.

"Economic growth has to continue overseas; that feeds into demand. At the same time, we need to see those inventories depleted to see recovery."

Dairy Council trains dairymen to be industry advocates

Program garners attention, excitement at World Dairy Expo

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS Capital Press

The National Dairy Council is encouraging dairymen to tell their story and be advocates for dairy farming and safe, nutritious dairy products.

Dairymen were at the World Dairy Expo in Madison, Wis., last week being trained to do just that

From giving presentations and tours to talking with reporters and taking advantage of social media, producers were engaged in learning how to get their stories out, said



Dairy Management Inc. board member Brad Scott, left, DMI Vice President David Pelzer and DMI board member Liz Anderson take a break from working the dairy checkoff booth at the World Dairy Expo.

David Pelzer, Dairy Management Inc. senior vice president of industry image and relations.

"It's one-on-one communications training ... to work with producers on their needs, opportunity and obligation to tell their story," he said

The program, Telling Your Story, is operated by the National Dairy Council through dairy checkoff dollars. "A lot (of producers) are

very receptive. They see the value in it because the Dairy Council is very successful in increasing dairy demand and sales," Pelzer said.

That's due to good relations with the media, schools and public in general, he said.

Brad Scott, a fourth-generation dairyman from San Jacinto, Calif., is a strong proponent of "Telling Your Story," talking with media and hosting tours at his dairy. He was at the expo working the dairy checkoff booth and spreading the word.

"It's a unique opportunity to engage with dairy producers from all over the country,' he said. "Dairymen themselves are in good spirits. They're excited about what we're telling them. Most producers don't realize they can be an advo-"It very important that all

producers talk about the pos-

itive things about dairy," he

said. "It's very important to get producers to engage more at the local level.' Liz Anderson, a, Onalaska, Wash., producer was also

at the expo, telling producers how they can help themselves and their industry. "We show cows so people

can stop and talk and ask questions," she said. "I've converted some people from drinking organic milk, telling them what milk contains and that it doesn't contain pesticides."

Vilsack plans for restructure

USDA chief pledges to quickly get aid money to dairymen

BATH, S.D. (AP) — The struggling U.S. dairy industry must be restructured to avoid cycles of boom and bust, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said Monday, Oct. 5, less than a week after Congress announced

a \$350 million dairy bailout. Dairy farmers benefited in recent years from higher milk prices and growing demand in countries such as China. But demand fell off with the economic downturn, and wholesale milk prices began plummeting last fall. At the same time, feed and other costs remained high.

Many farmers now say they can't sell their milk for what it costs to produce.

"I think really what will be next in line is a longer-term discussion about whether or not we need to make structural changes in the way the dairy industry is currently operated so we no longer have these rather stark contrasts between boom and bust," Vilsack said during a visit to South Dakota.

Vilsack said he would like to get federal aid into farmers' hands as soon as possible. Under the deal announced last week, his department is responsible for distributing \$290 million in direct support for dairy farmers. The remaining \$60 million will cover purchases of surplus cheese and other dairy products to help raise prices. Food banks and other nutrition programs will get the goods.

An advisory committee will recommend how to spend the money, Vilsack said.

"The general principle for me is to get as much money in the pockets of producers as quickly as I can," he said.

The secretary also said he expects USDA to look at its price support and marketing programs to see if changes can be made to help stabilize prices.

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Cal Poly alumni voice concerns

Some alumni criticize university's loss of hands-on experience

By CECILIA PARSONS Capital Press

The controversy over activist Michael Pollan's appearance on campus has placed a spotlight on recent changes at Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo's animal science department.

One of the most controversial was a decision to drop the department's highly regarded livestock judging team.

According to Andy Thulin, head of the animal science department, the school was not willing to spend \$45,000 annually to send a team on the road to compete. However, former team members and alumni dispute it was a funding issue because they said private funds were offered.

One of the most outspoken observers of the animal science department is former instructor Bill Jacobs, who coached the Cal Poly livestock judging team when it gained national prominence. Jacobs, who now resides in Oklahoma, blames

Organic and animal science experts to join Pollan

POLLAN from Page 1

culture industry leaders.

Joining Pollan on the panel will be meat science authority Gary Smith from Colorado State University and Tonya Antle, vice president of organic sales for Earthbound Farm Organic. Panelists will speak about current challenges and issues in food production, including perspectives on sustainability.

The change in the event format came a week after Harris Ranch Beef Co. Chairman David Wood sent a letter to Cal Poly President Warren Baker. Wood,

a Cal Poly alumnus, said the event was causing him to rethink his financial support of the university, including a \$500,000 pledge toward a new meat processing facility.

In a letter to Dave Wehner, dean of the school of agriculture, Wood said he has received hundreds of phone calls and emails from concerned alumni from across the U.S., including some who serve on various advisory councils for the ag department. Wood said none were in support of Pollan's appear-

Mike Smith, also with Har-

ris Beef, was much more direct in a phone interview on Oct. 5. He charged that the school "drug its heels" in changing the format to a more balanced presen-

Pollan declined to comment. In his writings, Pollan has characterized Harris Ranch and its cattle feed program as the 'epitome of unsustainablility.' Smith expressed outrage that the school would offer a speaker who denigrated a food production system that feeds people worldwide.

Another Cal Poly alumnus, Dave Spaulding, confirmed there has been much discussion among alumni over Pollan's invitation to speak. Spaulding, who is with Western Milling and O.H. Kruse Grain and Milling, said this issue has been the tipping point for many alumni and ag department supporters who are unhappy with changes in the university's agri-

culture department. Wehner disputed the notion that Pollan's appearance is an endorsement of his views by the university. In a phone interview, he also said the ag department heads urged there be a panel discussion for a more balanced presentation.

Pollan, he said, stipulated that he either be a single speaker or a member of a panel. He did not have a say in who the other panelists would be, Wehner said.

Pollan's invitation to speak came from SARC, Wehner said. It is paying him \$20,000 total for both speaking engagements. The school's agriculture department kicked in \$5,000 toward the speaking fee, and Wehner stressed that the money came from his discretionary funds, not from any department bud-

team and other problems he sees with the current program. Advisory council members have left, Jacobs said, because their input was not considered. At one time, Jacobs said,

Thulin for the demise of the

Cal Poly was ranked as the second-best agriculture department nationwide, right behind Ohio State University. Graduates were sought-after because employers knew the students had hands-on experience, he said. That is no longer the case students, especially those with strong backgrounds in production agriculture, are choosing schools in the Midwest over Cal Poly.

He cites the absence of animals at the school's swine unit as an example of misplaced priorities. Enterprise projects in the animal units and internships were powerful opportunities for students in past years, he said. Now, he noted, traditions have been lost along with those opportunities.

Last year the department celebrated the grand opening of a fully automated \$5 million feed plant on campus. The plant would make feed for the school's 400 head of beef cattle, 250 dairy

cows, 50 sows and 500 piglets as well as horses and chickens, the department reported.

Now, the swine unit is empty except for 18 tortoises, which are being used in a research project. There are also plans to cut beef and dairy cattle numbers due to budget constraints, Thulin

The department is facing a deficit, he said, and the reduction in animal numbers is happening at the school just as in industry. Swine will return to the unit in January, he said.

"There's no state funding for these programs. We have to weather the storm," Thulin said. He said he's disappointed that a few people think the school is scuttling the livestock proiects, but asserted that student numbers are holding strong.

Objections intensified in 1990s

LAND from Page 1

didn't escalate until the state started implementing the law.

"When the goals were first adopted (in 1975) and the rubber started to meet the road, that is when people started to object," he said.

"Even then," he said, "(objections) weren't as strenuous as they were in the early 1990s.

"You could still go out and partition the back 40, and create two or three lots with home sites. That didn't change until the early '90s when (House Bill) 3661 created the 80-acre minimum parcel size and when the \$80,000 rule was adopted.'

The \$80,000 rule requires landowners in exclusive farm use zones to generate at least \$80,000 in annual farm income before they can build a house on their land.

Hunnicutt believes those rules, coupled with the fact lawmakers failed to compensate landowners for losses in property value, led to the success of first Measure 7 in 2000, and subsequently Measure 37 in

The measures, which drew overwhelming support from Oregon voters, eased land-use restrictions. Measure 7 was thrown out by the courts on a technical issue. Measure 37 was subsequently scaled back by Measure 49, which today is part of Oregon land-use law.

Under Measure 49, eligible property owners can be compensated for the loss of property value caused by a land-use

DIENER from Page 1

Valley have again become

choked, Diener's efforts, in co-

operation with the University

of California and state and fed-

eral agencies, seem all the more

valley's west side is a layer of

impermeable clay that keeps

water from percolating into the

aquifer. That water deposits

minerals near the surface as it

evaporates, leaving farmers

with an ever-worsening prob-

So Diener, with researchers

from UC-Davis, USDA and the

state Department of Water Re-

Underlying the soils on the



Bill Moshofsky and Dave Hunnicutt of Oregonians In Action crafted two of the most significant ballot measures in Oregon land-use history. Measure 7, which voters approved in 2000, and Measure 37, approved in 2004, eased land-use restrictions.

regulation. The measure also allows governments to waive a regulation — an option cashstrapped governments have almost exclusively chosen.

Measure 49 limits a property owner's development options on farm or forest land to a maximum of three houses.

Moshofsky and Hunnicutt believe plenty more needs to be done to provide Oregon property owners with what Moshofsky calls basic civil

"We've come a long ways," Hunnicutt said. "But we still need to get the state to adopt new definitions of agricultural land and forest land, and recognize that you can't just go out and call everything that's empty in Oregon, that's unde-

veloped, farm or forest land. "They call this a planning

sources, is perfecting a tech-

nique that can turn valley farm-

ers into miners. It involves first

growing salt-tolerant crops, like

sugar beets, canola and mus-

Diener's system removes wa-

ter from the ground, then ex-

tracts minerals such as seleni-

um, nitrate and boron, which

there are well-established mar-

kets for these minerals, it's still

too early to say what a farmer

might get for what he extracts

from his soil. He and the re-

searchers are close to finishing

development of the extraction

Diener said that although

have viable markets.

Once salinity has built up,

system, but in rural Oregon, it's not planning at all. It's regulating, but it's not planning,' he said.

Eric Stachon, communications director for the land-use planning advocacy group 1000 Friends of Oregon, said he believes the state needs to scale back exceptions that have peppered farm zones in recent years.

Today, golf courses, model aircraft facilities and livinghistory museums are among about 50 exceptions allowed in farm zones.

"We would like to see that whittled away," he said. "It's a death by a thousand cuts scenario.'

Macpherson, who today lives in an assisted-care facility in Corvallis, is thankful

SB100 still is in play. "I'm delighted that it has

process. Development of those

particular markets will come

watched by other farmers, in-

cluding Russ Lester, a produc-

er of organic walnuts in the

Sacramento Valley who has

spent years making his farm car-

tors out there doing some won-

derful things in the convention-

the local land since early in the

20th century. In the 1980s, Di-

ener planted almond trees where

the family spread ascends the

coastal hills. That soon led to

al area," Lester said.

"John is one of the innova-

Diener's family has farmed

Diener's work has long been

lasted. I thought it would be voted out, but I recognized when developing it that it had to be within the bounds of what people would accept," he said.

"I think it is terribly important to keep farmland available for people who are going to be here from here on out," he said. "And I think Oregon has done a better job than other states to preserve farmland."

Macpherson still owns the farm his father started working in the early 1900s. A nephew works it today, growing grass seed, wheat and rotation crops on acreage the dairy once occupied.

"The remarkable thing is our land-use laws didn't come from a liberal group or a conservationist organization," Macpherson said. "It came from Oregon farmers."

erosion problems, with winter

rains cutting rills down the or-

lem by planting native grasses,

which are largely self-sustain-

a pivot water system to work

efficiently, modifying its wheels

so they wouldn't get stuck in

the clay soil. He also adopt-

ed no-till techniques, which

reduce tractor use and fuel

have allowed him to maintain

a lean labor crew that enjoys

strong pay with medical and re-

tirement benefits.

Diener says these techniques

costs.

ing in the valley climate.

Diener controlled that prob-

Following that, he adapted

chards' flat, bare soil.

Buyout worries beef producers

Dairy herd retirement coincides with beef cow culling season

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS Capital Press

A third dairy buyout this year is weighing on the minds of beef producers who say the timing of Cooperatives Working Together's latest effort hits at their peak marketing season.

Cow-calf pairs come in off the range, calves are weaned and culls are sent to market in the

"That's always the case," said Greg Doud, chief economist with National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

In addition, there's not a high demand for ground beef in the winter months and that's where the cull cows go, he said.

Dairy cows adding to slaughter will likely impact beef prices, he said. Markets during the previous two herd retirements this vear bear that out.

Beef producers lost \$4 to \$5 a hundredweight during a threeweek period in June when CWT sent cows to slaughter and \$3 a cwt again in the three-week period in August when CWT sent more cows to slaughter.

"We're concerned because June isn't a high point for cull cows; they're out grazing on pasture. In August, it's kind of the same thing," Doud said. "October and November is a much more significant time period. It'll have much more impact for ranchers marketing those cull

Other factors are already hit-

ting beef producers hard. The economic downturn, decreased demand for beef and large pork supplies are already straining "When dairymen make these

kinds of decisions, it has implications for our industry," he said. Earlier this month cull cow prices are down more than 10

percent from a year ago, according to NCBA. CWT culling could add to the price decline. "If this round of the CWT

were to involve a cull of 50,000 cows in a 30-day period, it could result in a \$3.00/cwt negative impact on cull cow prices,' NCBA reported. "Cull cow prices could potentially struggle into 2010, depending upon the exact timing of this cull."

Dick Coon, president of the Washington Cattlemen's Association and a Benge, Wash.based producer, on Monday, Oct. 5, sent a strongly worded letter to Jerry Kozak, president and CEO of National Milk Producers Federation.

"It is one thing to over-expand and be willing to pay the price to correct the problem, but it is unwise to unsettle and pressure an agricultural partner in the process," he stated in the let-

Coon said in a phone interview the action by CWT makes cattle producers uncomfortable. "I'm unhappy they're doing it now, I've got a lot of cows and calves to market," he said.

CWT has already removed 226,000 head in the past year and the industry has absorbed that because beef cull has been low, he said. Culling more dairy cows now is bad timing.

CWT: Budget limited

HERD from Page 1

would have to take aggressive of credit if needed.

With budgetary limitations, CWT will have to see what bids come in and take out what cows it can, he said.

"We will use the money as frugally as we possibly can," he

The maximum bid CWT will consider is \$5.25 per hundredweight of milk, which was the same bid ceiling as the previous round. There is no guarantee that every producer submitting a bid up to the maximum \$5.25 bid level will be accepted. Producers must be members of CWT. Producers whose bids were selected in previous herd retirements will not be eligible

This round will again include

Bid forms for herd

retirement and bred heifer option, a bid calculator, as well as the answers to frequently asked questions are available on the CWT website.

CWT website: www.cwt.coop

million pounds, or 2 percent, of milk a month out of the equation, but he knew there'd need to be another herd retirement this year. "In 2009, dairy farmers got

herd retirement efforts took 400

caught in the perfect storm; markets just went away," he said. "We had to reduce the herd because markets vanished.' Dairymen support the reduc-

tion program through a 10 cent per hundredweight assessment on their milk. Thirty-eight co-ops and about 400 individual producers participate. In all, CWT members represent about 68 percent of U.S. milk produc-

State agriculture directors back dairy price support efforts The directors of the Oregon products. Dairy products under the

Process extracts valuable minerals from soil

later.

bon-neutral.

and Washington departments of agriculture are throwing their support behind a proposed national price support program for dairies

Oregon's Katy Coba and Washington's Dan Newhouse on Oct. 7 urged USDA Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack and the Northwest congressional delegation to back a program boosting USDA purchases of cheese and other dairy

The proposal from the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture hopes to support a market milk price of \$16 per hundredweight.

Under the plan that state agriculture directors developed at a national gathering last month in Alabama, the USDA would buy 75 million pounds of cheese and other dairy products over a 120-day period to maintain

the \$16 target price.

plan would be distributed to the national school lunch pro-

gram, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and community food banks. These and other food assistance programs have seen a dramatic increase in demand during the economic recession, said Jason Kelly, communications director for the Washington State

Department of Agriculture. 'This proposal is good for Oregon and Washington dairies, but it also will bring muchneeded help to families struggling to make ends meet," Coba Kelly said dozens of Wash-

ington dairies have gone out of business the past two years, including 39 dairies in the first nine months of 2009.

'We're below 500 dairy farms for the first time in decades," Kelly said.

Mitch Lies

Online

action and asked producers to sign a two-year agreement to ensure it could take out a line

to bid again.

a bred heifer option. All bids submitted must be postmarked no later than Thursday, Oct. 15.

Tillison said the last three

Profit Center

Organic demand outstrips supply

Producers. processors echo USDA report of periodic shortages

By COOKSON BEECHER Capital Press

Although the economic downturn may have squeezed some consumers out of the organic marketplace, the industry is still growing — so much so that in some cases manufacturers find it difficult to meet demand, according to a USDA

"Only one segment has not kept pace — organic farms have struggled at times to produce sufficient supply to keep up with the rapid growth in demand, leading to periodic shortages of organic products," a new USDA report found.

In an interview with Capital Press, Organic Trade Association spokeswoman Barbara Haumann said 41 percent of the manufacturers and suppliers surveyed in 2008 said a lack of a dependable supply of organic materials and products was limiting their ability to generate more sales.

Sales of organic food grew by 15.8 percent in 2008 over 2007, faster than the 4.9 percent increase in growth for total U.S. food sales during the same time period, according to OTA's 2009 industry survey. Market penetration for organic food has also grown steadily, according to the USDA Econom-



Craig Reed/For the Capital Press

In this summer 2008 file photo, Mickey Spillane of Klamath Falls, Ore., carries a block of organic hay into a barn. The hay, grown in a nearby field, was being hauled and stored by Spillane for buyer Jack Platt, who operates an organic dairy near Independence, Ore.

ic Research Service. Sales of organic foods totaled \$21.1 billion in 2008 and accounted for over 3 percent of total U.S. food sales.

Jim Green, spokesman for Salem, Ore.-based Kettle Foods, said supply often depends on how a crop does in a given year. Last year, for example, the supply was "a little short" for the organic potatoes the company uses for its potato chips.

John Foraker of Californiabased Annie's Homegrown, which makes packaged organic pasta products, said shortages exist in some categories. But he also said the supply picture has improved since 2004 and 2005, when some of the major food companies started organic lines.

"There was a lot of pressure on supplies then," Foraker said.

Now that the economy has softened and some of the big companies are moving away from organics, the pressure on organic ingredients and products has eased somewhat, Forak-

"But you'll always see supplies of some products either tight or flush, depending on the weather and demand," Foraker said.

Nate Morr of Californiabased SunOpta said it all depends on which crops you're talking about, especially since supply and demand and Mother Nature are major players in the picture.

'That's the game," he said. "But it's always trickier when you're dealing with organic

products. It's always a tug-ofwar over supply and demand.' But he also pointed to a sup-

ply problem manufacturers are facing in today's poor economy: Retailers don't want to hold inventory.

'That challenges the industry's growth and availability of supplies," he said. "It limits manufacturers' ability to contract with growers."

Morr would like retailers and manufacturers "to come to the table" and assess demand so farmers can get contracts to grow what's needed.

Peggy Miars, executive director and CEO of California Certified Organic Farmers, an organic certification and trade association, said the association has heard there's not enough supply to meet demand.

"Some processors have told us they could ramp up production if they could get more supplies," she said.

As a result, she said, the industry is seeing more organic imports. Miars also said the organic livestock sector would grow if more organic grains were available.

The USDA report said the low organic adoption rate for grain crops continues to be a bottleneck for the expansion of the organic livestock sector. But Oregon dairy farmer Jon Bansen, a member of the Organic Valley cooperative, said supplies of organic grains have increased and prices have come down somewhat over the past year.

Asparagus industry awaits market loss payment

2008 Farm Bill program lags behind other assistance

By MATTHEW WEAVER Capital Press

At the prodding of a member of Congress, the USDA Farm Service Agency hopes to have the new Asparagus Market Loss Program in operation within a few months.

The delay in the program, a part of the 2008 Farm Bill, concerns farmers, said Washington Asparagus Commission administrator Alan Schreiber.

"For some reason, Farm Service Agency is taking a very long time to implement this,' Schreiber said.

Rep. Doc Hastings, R-Wash., is encouraging USDA to start

signup for the program as soon as possible. "After almost

two decades of severe losses, it is unacceptable to make our asparagus growers

in a press release. Chief of public affairs Kent Politsch said Farm Service Agency managers are aware the program is behind sched-

continue to wait," Hastings said

ule and that implementation is months away. The regulation is written, Politsch said, but the program has fallen behind other assis-

tance programs. "We're trying to get all of them done as quickly as possible," he said. The Andean Trade Prefer-

ences Act was signed into law in 1991 to assist with drug-suppression efforts in Andean region of South America. It extended duty-free access to the U.S. market for Peru-grown asparagus.

The act wiped out the asparagus processing industry in the West and severely hurt the

to plant asparagus, he said, but they're unsure about the markets in light of imports from Peru.

Schreiber said the new

Calendar

To submit items to the Events Calendar, visit www.capitalpress.com.

OCTOBER REGIONAL

Oct. 7-12 — Western Extension Commitee's Ag in Uncertain Times webinar. Information: www.farmmanagement.org/aginuncertaintimes.

CALIFORNIA Oct. 13 — Cotton Tour 2009: How

California growers weather tough climate, Los Banos. Information: 530-370-5325 or marcia@sustainablecotton.org.

Oct. 21 — Calaveras GROWN meeting, Calaveras County Agriculture Department, San Andreas. 5 p.m. Information: www.calaverasgrown.org.

OREGON

Oct. 15-16 — Oregon Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers Fall Meeting: "The Changing Face of Southern Oregon Agriculture," Rogue Regency Inn, Medford. Information: 541-

Oct. 15 — Oregon Forage and Grassland Council Fall Forage Day, Rock 'n D Angus Ranch, Junction City. Information: 503-566-9900 jerryhall@grasslandoregon.com.

Oct. 21, 28 — Planning IPM on Your Farm, Mount Angel and McMinnville. Information: 541-737-2683 or www.ipmnet.org

WASHINGTON

Oct. 30-31 — Washington State Sheep Producer annual convention, Spokane. Information: 509-968-9320.

NOVEMBER REGIONAL

Nov. 7-20 — North American International Livestock Exposition, Kentucky Exposition Center, Louisville, Ky. Information: 502-499-0574 or www.livestock-

Nov. 10, 12 — Feeding Quality Forum, South Sioux City, Neb. (Nov. 10), and Garden City, Kan. (Nov. 12). Information: www.CABpartners.com/events: Marilyn Conley, 800-225-2333, ext. 298; e-mail mconley@certifiedangusbeef.com.

CALIFORNIA

Nov. 2-4 — Pacific Logging Conference 100th Anniversary Convention, La Quinta Resort, La Quinta. Information: 425-413-2808 or www.pacificloggingcongress.com. Nov. 5 — Napa Valley Wine and

Grape Expo, Lincoln Theater, Yountville. Information: 707-944-8311 or www.napagrowers.org.

IDAHO Nov. 5- Dec. 17 — Forestry Short-

course, City Hall Meeting Room, Rathdrum. 6:30-9:30 p.m., Thursdays. Information: 208-446-1680. Nov. 11 — Evaporation and Dry-

ing Workshop for Dairy Processors, Canyon Crest Dining and Event Center, Twin Falls. \$245. Information: 208-364-4937 or jkron@uidaho.edu.

OREGON

Nov. 6-7 — Oregon Mediation Association fall conference, University of Oregon, Eugene. Information: 503-872-9775 or www.omediate.org

Nov. 12-15 — American Agri-Women annual meeting, Salem Conference Center, Salem. Information: www.americanagriwomen.org

Biotech wheat efforts key on consumers

Northwest system can segregate, isolate **GMO** varieties

By MATTHEW WEAVER Capital Press

During a trip overseas five years ago, flour millers told Mark Darrington they were adamantly opposed to biotechnology in wheat.

"I said, 'What if that biotech wheat could give you a 5 percent increase in bread flour yield?"" Darrington, of the Idaho Wheat Commission, recalled. "Their eyes got wide and they said, 'Really? Can you do that?' It just depends on who is being advantaged by

that technology.' Darrington is chairman of the Joint Biotechnology Committee, composed of members of U.S. Wheat Associates and the National Association of

Wheat Growers. The committee's goal is to transition customers and providers into wheat with biotechnology traits, Darrington said.

"The last thing we want to do is offend the customer. We do not want to do something that the customers don't want."



Mark Darrington, Joint Biotechnology Committee

"That means sharing knowledge, but it also means meeting the needs of those customers who choose not to have biotech

traits in their wheat," he said. The Pacific Northwest system is already adaptable to segregating different classes, varieties and proteins of wheat, he said, and it will work to isolate genetically modified wheat.

The committee is working with wheat breeders and technology providers to develop traits growers want and the market wants, Darrington said.

The last thing we want to do is offend the customer," he said. "We do not want to do something that the customers don't want."

Most people may think of

pesticide resistance and herbicide resistance when thinking of biotechnology, Darrington said, but the committee is looking at environmentally friendly traits like drought resistance and protein use improvement.

'We're looking at all kinds of things that are consumer friendly as well as production friendly," he said.

Oregon State University wheat breeder Jim Peterson said a lot of work is going on in with regard to wheat.

"There's different layers of technologies out there we're trying to apply," he said. "Genetic modification through transformation is just one of the technologies we're exploring and trying to bring to wheat."

mutagenesis and selected for Roundup herbicide tolerance, Peterson said. Rather than involve the exchange of DNA between plants or species, it was modified through mutant events and is not restricted in the marketplace. Other varieties have been developed through mutagenesis or chromosomal engineering, Peter-But the key change the in-

Clearfield wheat was developed through the process of

dustry is looking for is the acceptance of genetically modified traits, Peterson said.

Wheat doesn't have the production advantage of bioengineering that other crops do, Darrington said, and it has fallen behind in many places around the world as a result because it is less profitable. As the committee looks at the area of land available for future wheat production, he said, it believes it will need the boost of biotechnology to meet the public demand.

The committee has its next meeting in Utah in Oct. 20 and plans to release a white paper about future plans soon.

fresh industry, Schreiber said.

In Washington, one of the top asparagus-producing states, acreage decreased from 32,000 acres to 8,000 acres, Schreiber said. Many growers would like

USDA program would be a shot in the arm to the industry and a vote of confidence from the U.S. government.

"The paperwork is sitting on someone's desk in Farm Service Agency, and they have not acted on it," he said. "The Farm Service Agency staff members have done everything they can do. It's just held up within the agency administration."

Phosphate salt makers claim China dumps on U.S.

Trade commission studies allegations of economic harm

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Press

The federal government is investigating allegations that Chinese companies are dumping phosphate salts, used to manufacture fertilizers, pesticides and other goods, into the U.S. market at unfair prices. The U.S. International Trade

Commission announced Oct. 1 that it is looking into whether U.S. companies were suffering economic harm from phosphate salt imports from Chi-The investigation was trig-

gered by a petition from two U.S. manufacturers, ICL Performance Products of St. Louis, Mo., and Prayon Inc. of Augusta, Ga. 'Chinese producers, abetted by the policies of the gov-

ernment of China, have pur-

sued a strategy to increase their

market share in phosphate salts

in the United States by under-

selling domestic industry pro-

duction," the petition said. Two of the phosphate salts

in question — monopotassium phosphate and dipotassium phosphate — are common sources of phosphorus and potassium in fertilizer and nutrients in greenhouse produc-

The salts are also used as ingredients in fungicides, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Just this year, Chinese im-

ports of these phosphate salts have roughly tripled, from about 3 million pounds during the first half of 2008 to nearly 9 million pounds during the first half of 2009, according to the petition. At this point, Chinese firms

are poised to control 41 percent of the U.S. import market for the phosphate salts used in fertilizer and fungicides, compared with 34 percent in 2008 and 16 percent in 2007, the petition said. The huge increase is direct-

ly linked to below-fair-value

prices, the petition said. "Such

underselling has enabled Chi-

nese imports to seize numer-

ous accounts and prevents U.S.

producers from recapturing lost customers.'

Aside from fertilizer, these and other phosphate salts are also used in sports beverages, non-dairy creamers, food additives, cigarettes, toothpaste, soaps, detergents and other products. The petitioners claim Chi-

nese producers are able to sell phosphate salts at lower prices because the nation's government forgives their loans, reduces their freight charges and provides them with tax cuts and exemptions. The full scope of subsidies

is obscured by the Chinese government, particularly since much of its policies are carried out below the official surface, according to the petition. "The pressure to attract for-

eign investment and otherwise demonstrate economic growth provides significant incentive for provincial and local governments to offer subsidies," the petition said. "The lack of transparency is exacerbated with each new level of bureaucracy introduced."

Chinese phosphate salt producers also benefit from the country's massive supply of yellow phosphorus, which is the critical ingredient in such chemicals, the petition said. About 80 percent of global yellow phosphorus production is controlled by that coun-

China's government imposes export taxes to artificially boost the price of yellow phosphorous overseas, thereby increasing supplies and deflating prices domestically, the petition said. Such policies result in loss-

es to Chinese yellow phosphorus companies, but the country has an over-capacity of yellow phosphorus production in the first place, the petition said.

The government wants to yellow phosphorous producers to consolidate and develop large, vertically integrated operations that manufacture value-added goods, like phosphate sales, the petition said.

The fruits of such policies are already being seen in the

'Domestic producers cannot call on their customers without hearing about the low prices for phosphate salts from China," the petition said.

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Livestock

Critics fear disease lab's move

Supporters say facility presents no risk to agriculture

By TIM HEARDEN Capital Press

Critics say an accident at a planned Kansas facility that will research pathogens in animals could devastate the livestock industry nationwide, including in the West.

Some farm groups — but not all — are have fears about the construction of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility at Kansas State University, which would study footand-mouth disease and other ailments.

The U.S. De-

partment of

Homeland Se-

curity facility



would replace an aging research center on Plum Island,

N.Y., an island off the northern tip of Long Is-

But two national cattlemen's organizations say moving the study of dangerous pathogens to the mainland would be unwise because a tornado or other mishap could allow diseases to escape into the surrounding animal population.

"The most severe ramification would be the loss of the export market for beef and hogs,' said Bill Bullard, chief executive officer of the Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of Amer-

An outbreak could also affect trucking of cattle within the United States, which could cause problems for Western cattle going to feedlots in the Midwest, said Jess Peterson, the U.S. Cattlemen's Association's executive vice president.

This has been a national issue," Peterson said. "Whenever I travel the nation, I talk to people who are concerned about

The groups' concerns aren't shared by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association or the American Farm Bureau Federation, both of which support the new facility.

Elizabeth Parker, the NCBA's chief veterinarian, compares the new facility to human-disease labs such as those at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, Ga., which have not had any mishaps.

"Of course you need to assure that every precaution is taken," Parker said. "There needs to be multiple layers of biosecurity ... Technologies with buildings of this type have improved dramatically over the last 50 years."

But the critics have seized on a U.S. General Accounting Office report that asserts an animal-disease research facility could pose more risk than human-based disease research. The report suggests humans could come in contact with infected animals and carry diseases off site.



Kansas State University

The National Bio and Agro Defense Facility is slated to be built on a plot near Kansas State University's Biosecurity Research Institute and College of Veterinary Medicine

Further, the GAO asserts Homeland Security "did not incorporate worst-case outbreak scenarios," including the effectiveness of a containment zone 'to control the effects of a national export ban on the domestic livestock industry."

A conference committee this week approved funding for facility-related research at Kansas State. The government recently hired a construction manager for the research lab, which will aim to protect the food supply and agriculture economy from terrorism as well as deadly disease outbreaks.

The Manhattan, Kan., site was chosen by a panel of scientists and experts from Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The more than three-year search considered 29 potential sites, including 18 finalists in 11 states.

Groundbreaking is set to take place next year, and the facility could be operating by 2015.

In terms of biosecurity, Tom Thornton, president and chief executive officer of the Kansas Bioscience Authority, likens the new lab to a bank vault in a submarine at the bottom of the ocean. He said such mainland-based facilities in Canada and elsewhere have proven to be safe.

"In some respects there's been a demonizing of biocontainment research," Thornton said. "The goal here is to protect agriculture. The threat is not a modern research facility. The threat is specifically one posed by accidental release or terrorist threat. I think those are the key issues that drive the importance of this lab."

R-CALF's Bullard acknowledges there are benefits to housing a research facility at a major university, such as the availability of additional grant dol-

"The problem we see is the safety factor," he said. "It is inherently risky to conduct this research on the mainland.

'We've heard the argument that research could be conducted better on the mainland because of the likelihood that researchers would be more willing to live on the mainland," he said. "We've seen no studies and no substantiation that we couldn't have a world-class research facility on Plum Island following upgrades to that facility."

touts current system

Campaign points out advantages of conventional beef

By TIM HEARDEN Capital Press

Cattle producers who use growth hormones, feed additives and other so-called conventional means of raising and finishing their animals are pushing back against opponents.

A group calling itself the Growth Enhancement Technology Information Team, or GET IT, is starting a marketing program that asserts conventionally-raised beef is cheaper and doesn't harm the environment.

The campaign encourages the industry to "share the facts" about modern beef production with family, friends and neighbors, the Iowa-based group stated in a news release.

"It's an educational campaign for producers and other stakeholders in the industry,' said Carrie Jorgensen, an account executive for the Mc-Cormick Co., which is handling marketing for GET IT.

'We're kind of constantly getting attacked by the folks who question how we raise cattle and other food sources," she said. "This campaign is to help arm producers and other stakeholders with messages of how to convey that beef production is not only good for the environment, but to refute the myths about how organically raised beef is better for the environment.'

The group, which includes executives from U.S. animal health companies, was formed to combat negative images of the livestock industry such as one painted in an article in Time

magazine in August. The article, titled "Getting Real About the High Price of Cheap Food," opines that cheap meat and grain produced by the U.S. agricultural industry imposes "a high cost to the environment, animals and humans." Detrimental impacts include farmland erosion and the "scary" rise of antibiotic-resistant bacteria among farm animals, accord-

ing to the article. GET IT cited a Center for Global Food Issues study that finds conventional grain-based beef production systems produce 40 percent less greenhouse gas emissions than grass-only finishing programs, and that growth-encouraging technologies account for 25 percent of

Further, researchers at Iowa State University found that conventional feedyard-production technologies make for the most efficient use of farmland just as the world population is set to reach 9 billion by the middle of the 21st century, according to GET IT.

this reduction.

The campaign will include print and electronic advertising in producer publications, newsletters and a website, Jorgensen "I guess the great thing about

beef production right now is everybody has a choice," she said. "There's no entity dictating that it must be conventional or naturally raised. The purpose of the marketing campaign is to let people know that conventional beef production is good for the environment and good for consumers in terms of the price they pay at the meat case."

Online

For the GET IT team's website outlining the benefits of conventional beef production, visit http://beeftechnologies.com/ eco. For the Time magazine article about the commercial livestock industry, visit www.time.com/time/ goinggreen.

Cattle producers take their thoughts to the Web "The purpose of this blog is

Young Producers Council wants to energize the emerging generation

By TIM HEARDEN Capital Press

The emerging generation of cattle producers is bringing the beef industry into the digital

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's Young Producers' Council has launched a blog and Facebook page to get people from college to their mid-30s more involved in industry

Cari Rincker, 29 and a Shelbyville, Ill., cattle producer and agriculture attorney who leads the council's public relations committee, said there are already more than 1,000 people linked to the Facebook page and a dozen contributors have signed up to blog.

NCBA has more than 30,000 members and the average NCBA member is about 60 years old," Rincker said. "The goal of YPC is ultimately to get more young people involved with NCBA so they can help shape NCBA poli-

"Young people are certainly a big part of the beef industry, yet they seem to not have a lot of a voice right now," she said. "We're quickly becoming a social media world. The blogosphere is a great way for young beef producers to get their sto-

Online

To read the new Cattle Call http://ypcblog.beefusa.org. For more information

about the NCBA's Young Producers' Council, visit www.beefusa.org/ypc.

ries out to the public."

The more than 110-year-old NCBA, which is funded by member contributions and checkoff dollars, promotes beef and advocates for the industry. Its Young Producers' Council has about 150 members, although more young people are involved in their state organizations.

"A lot of state affiliations are jumping on this YPC perspective to try to get more young people involved," Rincker said. "You're seeing state affiliations develop their own young producers' councils.'

The new NCBA blog, titled Cattle Call, was launched on Sept. 22 and has featured producers' introductions of how they got into the industry and why they wanted to participate in the blog. Future posts could range from observations about the bloggers' daily lives to specific policy concerns, said Rincker, who is the blog's editor.

"The blog is going to touch upon issues that are relevant to

young producers," she said. Among the writers is Blair Hunewill, a sixth-generation rancher from California who

authored the blog's first post.

to discuss current issues that we feel are important to the cattle industry and of particular importance to America's young producers," Hunewill wrote. Hunewill and Washington

state's Jenna Feusener join other writers from across the country in contributing to the blog, which was the result of ideasharing discussions during the NCBA's summer conference in The young producers' group

is open to NCBA members between the ages of 18 and 35. The group takes part in policy committees, professional development and leadership training, networking, continuing education and other ac-

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Wardens wipe out wolf pack

Wolves shot after attacks on sheep

BUTTE, Mont., (AP) — Federal trappers say they have eliminated the remaining members of a wolf pack that roamed the Centennial Valley and was blamed for attacking sheep and cattle in Montana and Idaho.

Carolyn Sime, wolf program coordinator for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, said trappers shot and killed the last four wolves

of the Sage Creek pack last week.

Biologists said the pack was comprised of eight adults.

This summer it preved on sheep at the Idaho Agriculture Experiment Station near the Montana border. At the time, Idaho officials decided to kill some of the wolves.

Sime said Montana officials decided to act when the pack crossed back into Montana and attacked sheep again.

Sime says trappers shot the remaining animals from the air.



Livestock

Greener Pastures Doug Warnock



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labound on how to farm and ranch in a sustainable manner. So, sustainability is continually being defined.

That is good, because sustainable management, i.e. sustainable practices, may differ from one place to another, due to the differences that exist in climate, elevation, water supply, vegetation, type and adaptation of livestock, along with many other factors.

David Granastein, WSU sustainable agriculture specialist, said sustainability is not a line or a threshold, but a goal to which we subscribe. In other words, it may not be a destination, but the journey that is important. If we continually work to achieve a more sustainable enterprise, then we are moving in the right direction. The goal may change somewhat as we learn more and move toward it, but the important thing is that we are moving in the right direction.

It seems most of us agree that sustainability is defined to include economic viability, environmental soundness and social acceptability. All three of these are necessary components, and without any one of the three, there cannot be sustainability.

Working with nature

We are able to improve our journey toward sustainability when we learn more about nature and the way it operates. The natural processes are there for us to understand, and the better we work with them, the better we will be at achieving sustainability.

For example, nature shows us that young ungulates are born in the spring when most of the snow and cold temperatures are gone and when the grass is greening up. That is when the dam is best able to get both the quality and quantity of forage that is needed to provide enough milk to feed her young.

When we expend a lot of resources to support dams that give birth in the dead of winter, we are reducing profit and working against nature. If, however, there is an economic advantage to have the dams give birth during the colder part of the year, the additional cost of that practice may be rewarded enough to offset the greater cost. As the definition indicates, there must be a level of profitability in the application of each practice and for the overall enterprise.

Kit Pharo, well-known cattle breeder in Chevenne Wells, Colo., promotes the use of cattle that are best suited to the environment of the specific ranch location. Pharo says that we can't afford to artificially change the environment to fit the cows, we must find the cows that fit the environment. Pharo goes on to explain that the best suited cows are those that can produce and reproduce with minimum inputs. That may mean culling out some animals that "look good," but who may need more help doing the job of producing a good marketable calf every year. As Pharo says, cattle must be environmentally adapted in order to efficiently convert the available forage into beef with a minimum of inputs.

Those who manage grazing animals are "grass or forage farmers." They use the grazing animals to harvest the plants that result from the conversion of solar energy into plant tissue. The better the job that is done of converting solar energy into plants and in managing the grazing animals to keep the plants healthy and growing, the more sustainable is the operation

Doug Warnock, retired after35 years as an extension agent with Washington State University, consults and writes on ranch and farm management.

Abandoned meat raises a stink

South Dakota town faces down 44 tons of rotting bison meat

By CARSON WALKER Associated Press

BRIDGEWATER, S.D. — Behind the freezer doors at a meat plant mysteriously abandoned by its owner, the 44 tons of bison meat managed to hold its own for months, masked by the brutal chill of two South Dakota winters.

Once the power was cut and spring thaw arrived, nature took over. And enough rotting meat to fill a high school gym did exactly what you'd expect: It stank.

It stank at the bank. It smelled at the law office. It reeked at the cafe. Even the jewelry store wasn't immune. Everyone in this tiny town could smell it, everywhere they went. A putrid odor so downright nasty the cleaners sent to mop up the gooey mess of liquefied meat—topped by a blanket of swarming white maggots and buzzed by a legion of flies—gave up after two days.

"You've also got the city offices, the grocery store and the post office. And then you spread out to the local residences," said Mayor Marty Barattini, pointing to each place. "This is a small town. We have just over 600 people, so that stench was enough to overwhelm the entire town. Not just this street."

Fed up with the smell, a brave crew of 18 city and county workers took matters into their own hands this summer and stormed the plant to haul away the putrid meat and take back their town. What came next was the biggest indignity: Three months after the cleanup, the owner still hasn't paid the \$11,151 cleanup bill, and owes about \$14,085 in unpaid property taxes on top of it.

"We tried to work with that guy," Barattini said.

The saga of the smell began in January 2008, when owner Ilan Parente closed Bridgewater Quality Meats and moved the business to Dawson, Minn., as Noah's Ark Processors LLC. He left the boxed kosher bison meat behind, apparently to be sold to a pet food company. It stayed frozen until the electricity was cut off in December for lack of payment.

When the town about 40

"I don't think anybody should ever do something like that. That was bad."

Todd Letcher, firefighter

miles away from Sioux Falls began to warm in the spring, the smell began to creep out. Some said the scent was like road kill. The mayor said he spent two tours of duty in Vietnam and could not recall smelling anything as bad.

"This is worse than rotten bodies," Barattini said.

The city sent a notice to Parente to remove the caustic cause, and he dispatched two workers who toiled without protective masks, clothing, equipment or access to water or electricity. Defeated by the mess, they quit after two days.

So city and county officials got permission from the South Dakota Animal Industry Board to go inside and finish. It then became clear that the source of the smell was the meat: 88,420 pounds, according to the scale

at the Sioux Falls landfill, where the mess was hauled in five dump trucks and three extralarge trash bins.

The crews and a skid loader spent two days removing the meat, which had swollen so much that the shrink-wrapped bags had burst, which caused the stacked boxes to topple. Most crew members wore oxygen masks and hazardous materials suits because of the strong ammonia odor. Crews cleaned the building with fire hoses and doused it with bleach.

City employee and volunteer firefighter Todd Letcher wore his fire gear. "I don't think anybody should ever do something like that," he said of the job. "That was bad."

Parente's phone number is disconnected, and the attorney representing him, Mike Unke, declined to comment. A woman who answered the phone at the Minnesota business said Parente is no longer affiliated with it. Requests for someone to comment went unanswered. Parente has said before that he checked the meat in May and found it iced over due to a broken water pipe. He's claimed the meat might have stunk, but

says he never put anyone in danger.

"I feel bad for the people of Bridgewater who had to live with the smell. But that's really where the extent of my feeling bad goes. It wasn't ever a health hazard to anyone," he told The Daily Republic of Mitchell in July.

The county spent about \$5,000 on dump trucks and men to drive them, the city submitted a bill of \$3,918 to Parente for trucking costs, landfill fees, attorney fees, overtime and pest control, and the fire department's cost came in at \$2,233 for wages, air tanks, two fire trucks and clothing replacement.

Parente also owes \$8,628 in back property taxes and interest on the business and \$5,457 on a rural house he owns, according to McCoy County records. Bridgewater City Attorney Mike Fink said the city is in the process of discussing a settlement to recoup the cleanup costs. Months after the massive cleanup, though, the city hasn't seen a dime.

A longer version of this story is online at www.capitalpress.com.

Poultry industry argues state could have done more

Oklahoma presses lawsuit over watershed pollution

TULSA, Okla. (AP) — The Arkansas poultry industry tried on Monday, Oct. 5, to show that Oklahoma had the power to fix the pollution problem in the Illinois River watershed without hauling poultry processors into federal court, but failed to do so.

The 11 companies Oklahoma is suing used the cross-examination of Ed Fite, the

director of Oklahoma's Scenic Rivers Commission, to illustrate what the state could have done before the 2005 lawsuit was filed. Oklahoma's lawsuit claims runoff from fields spread with tons of chicken litter has polluted the river valley on the Oklahoma-Arkansas border.

Last week, Fite testified he was in talks with the industry for more than a decade about ways to move chicken waste out of the watershed, but the industry failed to change its practices. Monday, poultry industry attorney Tom Green asked Fite why Oklahoma has not banned farmers from letting their cattle defecate in the valley's rivers and streams, restricted cattle from grazing in riparian areas or regulated the use of commercial fertilizer, which contains the same phosphorus that poultry litter does.

Green asked Fite whether it was "humanly possible" for Oklahoma to implement any of the restrictions.

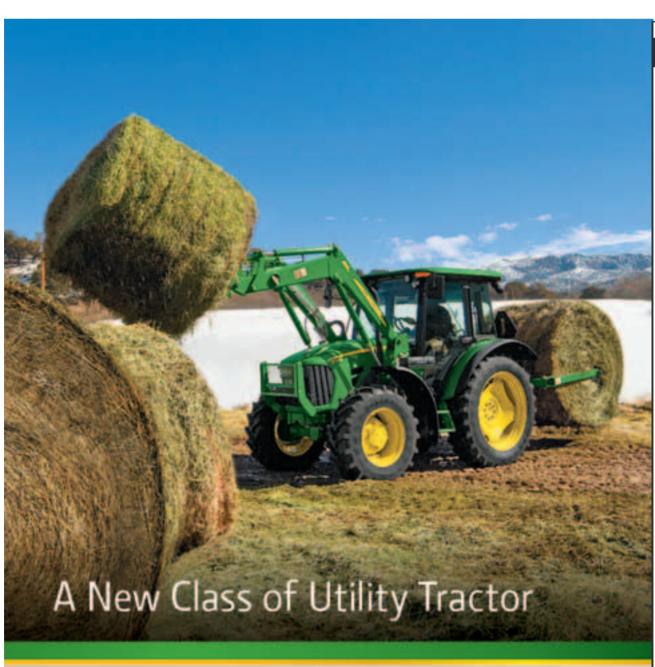
"The Oklahoma Scenic Rivers Commission has done what we could," Fite responded.

Fite's cross-examination came on the third day of testimony in the closely watched case, which could drag on for months.

Its outcome is being monitored by other states thinking about challenging the way the industry does business in other watersheds.

For decades, farmers in northeastern Oklahoma have spread litter from their chicken houses on their fields as a cheap fertilizer to grow other crops. The state argues runoff from the fields contains harmful bacteria that threatens the health of the tens of thousands of people who raft and fish in the watershed each year.

The defendants named in the lawsuit are Tyson Foods Inc., Cargill Inc., Cal-Maine Foods Inc., Tyson Poultry Inc., Tyson Chicken Inc., Cobb-Vantress Inc., Cargill Turkey Production L.L.C., George's Inc., George's Farms Inc., Peterson Farms Inc. and Simmons Foods Inc.



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Source: NationalAtlas.gov

Will Koenig/Capital F

Judge upholds logging in old-growth parcel

Environmental groups challenged feds' modeling tools

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Press

An environmentalist challenge to logging on a parcel of old-growth forest in Northern Idaho has been rejected by a federal judge.

U.S. District Judge Edward Lodge ruled Sept. 30 that the U.S. Forest Service did not violate environmental laws by allowing tree-cutting as part of a forest restoration project in the region.

"Although trees will be removed under the project, the project's purpose is not logging of old growth," the judge said in his ruling.

The environmentalist groups' allegations take the Forest Service's actions out of context, since the agency wanted to remove smaller-diameter trees to help prevent fire and disease, according to the decision.

Plaintiffs in the case — Lands Council and Wildwest Institute — claimed the agency's Mission Bush Restoration Project would reduce old growth below 10 percent in the Idaho Panhandle National Forests. Ten percent old-growth cover is the minimum permitted by federally mandated forest management plans in the region.

The groups alleged the time

The groups alleged the timber stand monitoring tools used by the Forest Service were inaccurate and overestimated how much old-growth habitat actually existed in the national forests.

Lodge disagreed, ruling that the agency used two independent modeling tools that corroborated each other and were backed up by timely field data and other studies.

Plaintiffs also claimed the project would remove replacement old-growth trees, which the agency didn't properly consider in its restoration plans.

Lodge rejected those arguments as well, finding that the Forest Service had thoroughly examined the project's effects on forest structure and wildlife species, including gray wolves, grizzly bears, woodpeckers and other animals.

"The USFS considered and analyzed the proper management of old-growth trees of the type found in the project area in arriving at its conclusions regarding appropriate treatments to achieve the project goals of restoring and creating healthier old-growth stands," the ruling said.

Weather aids defense of town

WRIGHTWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Cool, calm weather may help firefighters surround a wildfire that burned three homes near the California

mountain town of Wrightwood. National Weather Service forecaster Stan Wasowski says highs in the 60s to low 70s, higher humidity and light winds will continue through the week.

The blaze in the San Gabriel Mountains northeast of Los Angeles is 32 percent contained after burning 7,128 acres of brush and timber.

Restoration hits fast track

FreshWater Trust expands web-based StreamBank program

By LEE FARRENFor the Capital Press

Stream restoration takes time, but individual projects could move at a faster pace, according to a 2008 survey conducted by Oregon Trout (now part of The FreshWater Trust, a Portland-based nonprofit organization).

Fifty coordinators of Oregon soil and water conservation districts and water-shed councils identified funding and permitting as the two biggest bottlenecks in restoration work.

It can take up to 30 months to plan a project, obtain the necessary grants and permits, complete the on-the-ground work and receive payment. The landowners, watershed councils and SWCDs putting the projects together can grow discouraged and even give up in the face of delays and setbacks.

"Right now, if a landowner wants to fix a stream, even with a local coordinator, it's a minor miracle to pull off a restoration project. It doesn't have to be that way," said Joe Whitworth, president of The FreshWater Trust.

Whitworth began working on a solution to that problem when he was executive director of Oregon Trout. He raised about \$2.5 million in private capital from a handful of longtime Oregon Trout donors and went to work developing Stream-Bank, a web-based software tool that incorporates design, funding and permitting functions in one place. StreamBank moves project coordinators through a series of screens where they answer questions to determine the best project design and funding sources.

"It creates a pretty straightforward management tool. Folks answer the questions, the information gets sorted for them, the forms are automatically brought up and the information filled in," Whitworth said.

The FreshWater Trust has worked with



Lee Farren/For the Capital Pres

StreamBank web-based software can help landowners and project coordinators with design, permitting and funding for stream restoration projects.

Video

The FreshWater Trust has released "Changing Course: Freshwater Restoration for the 21st Century," a 30-minute video covering the organization's 2008 pilot projects and StreamBank web-based software. Video producer Jeremy Monroe visited several of the pilot projects to interview landowners and local coordinators. The video is available from Adrian McCarthy, The FreshWater Trust, 503-222-9091 ext. 30 or Adrian@thefreshwatertrust.org.

various permitting agencies to streamline their permits for common restoration projects like riparian fencing and planting and off-stream water developments. In addition, the trust secures funding from various sources and disburses it through the StreamBank program.

In 2008 The FreshWater Trust spent \$1 million of private foundation money to complete 17 projects in Oregon. In 2009 the Trust has arranged for \$60,000 of Environmental Protection Agency money, through the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, for one project.

"We've done a lot of projects, and now we're stepping back and doing one big project with public dollars. We've tested StreamBank for two years and convinced two agencies to complete their permitting electronically. Now we're working with the DEQ to demonstrate that public dollars can be run through this program," said Adrian McCarthy, communications directors for The FreshWater Trust.

At the end of 2009, if the DEQ likes the way StreamBank works and certifies the projects, The FreshWater Trust will take another step forward.

"Then we are in a good position for other states and other local entities to upload into the StreamBank platform statespecific, regulator-approved criteria," Whitworth said.

Russ Powell, fish habitat biologist in the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife John Day office, used StreamBank to complete two off-stream water developments in 2008.

"It was pretty simple, walked you through the whole process. StreamBank is similar to a database program, with different sections where you could punch data in. It went through the proper steps to fill the forms out and let us know we had funding," Powell said. What Powell liked best was the speed in receiving payment.

"We sent an invoice by e-mail, and they sent the funds that same day. For a contractor, that's a good deal," Powell said.

BLM lists desired noxious weed fighters

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Press

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management wants to expand its arsenal of pesticides to fight noxious weeds in Oregon.

On Oct. 2, the agency released a draft environmental impact statement that examines the potential effects of using up to 14 additional herbicides in the state.

Canada thistle, Russian knapweed and other invaders could be controlled with safer and more target-specific chemicals developed in the past two decades, said Todd Thompson, project manager for the BLM.

Currently, the agency is limited to using four herbicides—glyphosate, dicamba, picloram and 2,4-D—as part of a 1987 court decision that only pertains to Oregon.

"If herbicide resistance was

Possible tools

Additional herbicides considered for use on Oregon BLM lands: bromacil, chlorsulfuron, clopyralid, diflufenzopyr, diquat, diuron, fluridone, hexazinone, imazapic, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, sulfometuron methyl, tebuthiuron and triclopyr.

to develop, we would have another tool for treatment," said Thompson.

Noxious weeds invade more than 140,000 acres of BLM land per year in Oregon, crowding out native plants, damaging wildlife habitat and contributing to wildfires, according to the environmental impact statement.

Of the 15.7 million acres of BLM land in the state, about

ROP-40-2-2/#13

1.2 million are already infested with such weeds to some degree, the statement said.

However, in 1984, a federal district court judge ruled that BLM hadn't properly analyzed the effects of pesticides on human health and barred the agency from using any chemicals to suppress weeds.

That order was modified three years later to exclude the four above-mentioned herbicides, after the agency had completed an environmental impact statement.

The latest draft environmental impact statement is the BLM's first step toward expanding the list of approved pesticides. The statement is now up for public comment, after which a final version and record of decision will be published.

The decision would still be

subject to administrative appeal, after which a judge from the U.S. District Court for Oregon would need to lift the injunction on the additional pesticides.

"We've got a step or two left to go," said Thompson.

The BLM has been cooperating with the environmental group that filed the initial lawsuit — Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides — but it could still encounter resistance to the plan from other organizations, he

"There may new challenges to the program that surface," Thompson said.

The Northwest Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides declined to comment on the matter and referred questions to Umpqua Watersheds, another environmental group.

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Orchards, Nuts & Vines

Growers split over blueberry assessment

Decision on how much to increase fee up to USDA chief

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Press

The blueberry industry is evenly split on the prospect of doubling assessment fees to stimulate consumption of the crop, judging from comments to the USDA.

The number of remarks favoring and opposing the assessment hike were roughly equal during the comment period, which ended in late September.

Most arguments against the fee hike focused on the economic hardships farmers are suffering due to low prices for the fruit.

"It's something we're all aware of," said Mark Villata, executive director of the U.S. High-



bush Blueberry Council. At the request

of the council, the USDA in July proposed raising the assessment on blueberries

from \$12 per ton to \$24 per ton. The council uses the funds to promote the crop.

The council requested the fee increase because global production of blueberries may double in the next five years or so, from 600 million pounds to 1.5 billion pounds.

For demand to keep pace with burgeoning supplies, annual domestic consumption of blueberries would need to rise from about 22 ounces to 44 ounces per person, Villata said.

At current production levels, the council's proposed assessment hike would boost annual revenues for research and advertising from \$2.4 million to \$4.8 million.

The additional funds would be used to promote the fruit's use in military and school meal programs and develop export markets for U.S. blueberries. Villata said. Currently, about a third of the U.S. crop is shipped overseas.

"We could be more aggressive in those areas," Villata said.

Enhanced promotions will be needed because other food commodity groups are also heavily publicizing their crops' health benefits, Villata said.

Such claims have been a major driver of blueberry consumption in recent years.

"Our message is getting diluted," he said. "We're not the only player out there.'

However, several growers questioned why the council needed to increase assessments when production growth would already contribute to rising rev-

By doubling the assessment, the council would basically see its income quadruple, farmer

'That is excessive," Beach wrote. "None of us are getting that kind of increase in value for our farms' production."

David Beach argued.

Other growers claimed that higher assessment fees — combined with growing input costs and blueberry prices at about \$0.30 per pound or below would put many farms out of business.

Some growers questioned the value of USHBC promotions, while others said their own marketing efforts are effective enough.

Blueberry farmer Lynn Thompson stated that the public is already saturated with health benefit messages.

"The awareness is already at a high level; addition(al) promotion, I believe, is excessive and redundant," Thompson

Farmer Phil Olson said he opposed the assessment hike because, unlike production expenses, the fees are not tax-deductible. Unprofitable farms must still pay assessment fees, even if they don't owe taxes to state and federal governments.

"Having a tax imposed on a product with no consideration of the value of this product just makes no economic sense," he said. "If a graduated income tax makes sense for the IRS and our federal income tax codes, then it should make sense here."

Farmers, packers and associations that supported the assessment hike generally said that unless promotions were amplified, the industry's economic situation would get even

The promise of strengthening the link between blueberries and health was a strong theme in supportive comments.

"The health message that has been such a shot in the arm for the blueberry industry needs to continue and move into actual human clinical trials." farmer Jeffrey Jawor wrote. "If it can be proven that blueberries can prevent or even cure a disease, the positive impact it would have on the industry would be enormous."

The decision whether or not to increase the assessment is ultimately up to the USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack, who may also decide to reduce the size of the increase.

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will consult with its lawyers and economists about the proposal, then turn the information — along with grower comments — over to Vilsack, agency spokesman Jimmie Turner said.

The USHBC hopes to have the assessment in place by next year, but Vilsack does not face a deadline.

"There's no time frame to decide what to do," Turner said.

16-24oz/100g

Hazelnut crop offers bright spot Oregon hazelnuts

Reduced harvest in Turkey means higher prices in Oregon

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI

Amid the current economic gloom, Doug Olsen says he realizes he's lucky to be an Oregon hazelnut grower.

The 2009 harvest has hit full swing earlier than normal, with growers reaping ample quantities of high-quality nuts.

Most importantly, prices are healthy.

"Nobody's going to get fat, but everybody's going to make some money," Olsen said.

At about \$0.75 to \$0.80 per pound, hazelnuts are fetching roughly \$0.10 to \$0.15 per pound above the cost of production, said Olsen, who grows several hundred acres in the northern Willamette Valley.

Oregon's projected production is up 19 percent, to 38,000 tons, and the percentage of defective nuts is the lowest in more than three decades, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

'We're bullish," said Compton Chase-Lansdale, president and CEO of the Hazelnut Growers of Oregon, a cooperative that packs and markets the nut. The positive outlook for

Oregon farmers is partly the result of significantly lowerthan-expected production in Turkey, the world's largest hazelnut producer, he said.

That country's reduced production was aggravated by an insect infestation, Chase-Lansdale said. Altogether, Turkey is projected to harvest 350,000 tons of hazelnuts, down from the 550,000 tons anticipated



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press Farmer Doug Olsen inspects hazelnuts prior to harvest at one of his orchards in Oregon's Willamette Valley.

earlier this year.

"That's supporting much higher kernel prices," he said. Oregon growers primarily sell into the in-shell market, but strong kernel prices provide them with additional options and improve overall market conditions.

The U.S. dollar has weakened against the European euro and other currencies, which makes Oregon hazelnuts more affordable overseas, he said. The state's largest export

customer, China, continues to have an unabated appetite for hazelnuts, Chase-Lansdale said. "The Chinese economy

seems to have more resilience,' he said.

Hazelnut farmers have seen a major reversal in fortunes since the cusp of the 21st century, when low prices and the specter of Eastern filbert blight

Production and average price *Production forecast by NASS; price forecast by CHMB Sources: National Agricultural Statistics Service Will Koenig/Capital Press Oregon Hazelnut Marketing Board cast a shadow over the indus-

try, Olsen said. Since then, markets have

improved and Oregon State University has released several new tree varieties that are resistant to the fungal pathogen, said Mike Klein, manager of the Hazelnut Growers Bargaining Association.

The group represents growers in price negotiations with packers.

"We're at that point where we've wanted to be for a number of years, which is a lot more people interested in planting hazelnuts," Klein said. "We haven't been able to attract the biggest customers, because we haven't had enough supply. ... This helps with that."

Major food buyers need a reliable source of raw materials, which poses a challenge due to the cyclical nature of hazelnut production — strong yields are often followed by weak ones the following season, said Olsen, who also serves as president of the bargaining asso-

"It's hard to entice a Hershey's when one year you can

provide them with a trainload of nuts and the next year you can supply them with a truckload of nuts," he said.

As of 2008, Oregon had a total of 30,100 acres of hazelnuts, with 28,400 acres of bearing maturity, said Polly Owen, manager of the Hazelnut Marketing Board, which promotes the crop and oversees quality control.

Based on an informal survey of tree nurseries, Owen estimates an additional 1,000 acres were planted last winter and about 1,200 acres will be planted this coming winter. However, some acres are likely being removed due to blight

The Oregon industry dominates U.S. hazelnut production, but growers aren't worried its strong economic position relative to other crops will spur over-planting, she said. Hazelnuts are traded on a global market, and Oregon is still much smaller than such behemoths as Turkey. "Our acreage could increase

significantly before we could impact the world," Owen said.

Thousand canker hits Washington

PROSSER, Wash. (AP)— A fungus spread by beetles is killing black walnut trees in Prosser.

Six trees infected with thousand canker disease were found last year by Washington State University Extension educator Gwen Hoheisel on her property. She said little can be done to save infected trees. The infected trees have been removed.

Now many of the about 80 walnut trees on Prosser city property are showing yellow leaves and dead branches.

Hoheisel said the disease also has been found in Yakima and Walla Walla. It's also ravaged trees in Oregon, Idaho, California and other states. Thousand canker takes one

to three years to kill a fullgrown walnut tree.





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Farm Market Report

Hay Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Moses Lake, Wash.

Hay prices are dollars per ton or dollars per bale when sold to retail outlets. Basis is current delivery FOB barn or stack, or delivered customer as

indicated. Grade guidelines used in this report have the following relationship to Relative Feed Value (RFV), Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF), TDN (Total Digestible

Nutrients), or Crude Protein (CP) test numbers

| au.ioi.ito), oi oi | 440 1 1010111 (01 | , 1001 | 0. | |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------|-----------|-------|
| Grade | RFV | ADF | TDN | CP |
| Supreme | 185+ | <27 | 55.9+ | 22+ |
| Premium | 170-185 | 27-29 | 54.5-55.9 | 20-22 |
| Good | 150-170 | 29-32 | 52.5-54.5 | 18-20 |
| Fair | 130-150 | 32-35 | 50.5-52.5 | 16-18 |
| Utility | <130 | 36+ | <50.5 | <16 |
| | WASHINGT | ON-OREGO | ON HAY | |
| | (0.1 | | | |

(Columbia Basin (USDA Market News) Oct. 2

This week FOB Last week Last year Compared to last week: Premium and Supreme hay not recently well

tested, however a higher undertone was noted on fourth cutting. Fair and Good Alfalfa traded steady to firm. All classes of Export hay traded fully steady. Retail hay sold steady. Volume has been increasing the last week as weather begins to get cooler across the state. Buyer demand moderate to good for Premium and Supreme dairy hay, moderate for Retail and Export hay, and light for all other classes. Most producers in the Basin are just finishing or have finished their final hay harvest of the year this week.

| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Supreme | 135 | \$134 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------|-----------|
| | Premium | 970 | \$120-135 |
| | Good | 400 | \$105-110 |
| | Fair | 525 | \$80-85 |
| Alfalfa Export 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 2,200 | \$125-145 |
| Alfalfa Export Mid/Ton | Premium | 1,300 | \$110 |
| Alfalfa Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 425 | \$130-160 |
| Orchard Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 270 | \$165-190 |
| | Good/Prem. | 140 | \$120 |
| Orchard/Alfalfa Mix Retail/feed | | | |
| store/horse 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 20 | \$185 |
| Timothy Export 2-3 tie small sq bales | Prem. 2nd C | Cut | 300 \$180 |
| | #1 2nd Cut | 140 | \$160 |
| | #2 2nd Cut | 190 | \$140 |
| Timothy Export Mid/Ton | Premium | 35 | \$190 |
| | #2 2nd Cut | 300 | \$160 |
| Timothy Retail/feed store/horse | | | |

Other hay: 890 Tons. OREGON AREA HAY (USDA Market News) Oct. 2 This week FOR Last week

2-3 tie small sg bales

Last year CROOK, DESCHUTES, JEFFERSON, WASCO COUNTIES: Tons FOB Barn/Stack: 1,660

Premium 40 \$180

Compared to last week: Premium Dairy hay not recently tested, however er a firm undertone was noted. All classes of retail hay sold fully steady. All other classes not well tested. Buyer demand light to moderate for all classes, with mostly heavy supplies of hay

| co, with mootly moury supplies of may. | | | |
|--|----------------|--------|-------------|
| | | Tons | Price |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Premium | 500 | \$115 |
| | Good | 500 | \$100 |
| | Fair/Good | 100 | \$85 |
| Alfalfa Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 145 | \$160-16 |
| Forage Mix Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Good | 10 | \$250 |
| Meadow Grass Retail/feed store/hor | se | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Good | 25 | \$165 |
| Orchard Domestic Cattle | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Fair | 35 | \$125 |
| Orchard Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 200 | \$170-19 |
| · | Good | 95 | \$145-16 |
| Other hay: 50 Tons. | | | |
| EASTERN OREGON: Tons FOB Barn/ | Stack: 810. | | |
| No recent test for Premium and Supre | eme Alfalfa, h | owever | a steady to |

firm undertone was noted. Retail hay traded steady to weak on all types Buyer demand mostly light for all classes

| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Prem./Sup. | 550 | \$110 | |
|------------------------------------|------------|------|-------|--|
| | Good/Prem. | .100 | \$95 | |
| Orchard/Alfalfa Mix Domestic | | | | |
| Cattle 2-3 tie small sq bales | Good/Prem. | .20 | \$95 | |
| Orchard/Alfalfa Mix Retail/feed | | | | |
| store/horse 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 20 | \$160 | |
| Timothy Export Mid/Ton | Prem. | | | |
| | 2nd Cut | 120 | \$125 | |
| Other hay: None. | | | | |
| HADNEY COUNTY: Topo EOD Dorn/Ct | ook: 1 025 | | | |

HARNEY COUNTY: Tons FOB Barn/Stack: 1,035. Compared to last week: Not enough Domestic cattle Alfalfa for a mar-

Other hay: None

| ket test, however a steady undertone w | as noted. Expo | rt Alfalfa | not recent |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------------|
| ly tested with a definite higher underton | e being noted. | Buyer de | mand ligh |
| to moderate for all classes of hay. | | | |
| - | | _ | |
| | | Tons | Price |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Good | Tons 35 | Price \$90 |

KLAMATH BASIN: Tons FOB Barn/Stack: 1,765. Compared to last week: Premium and Supreme Alfalfa not recently tested, however a higher undertone is noted. Export hay traded steady to firm. Retail hay traded mostly steady. Buyer demand light for all classes of hay

| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|-----|-------|--|
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Prem./Sup. | 550 | \$120 | |
| | Fair | 80 | \$85 | |
| Alfalfa Export Mid/Ton | Premium | 850 | \$100 | |
| Alfalfa Retail/feed store/horse | | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 60 | \$120 | |
| Meadow Grass Retail/feed store/horse | | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Good | 25 | \$100 | |
| Orchard Export Mid/Ton | Good | 100 | \$180 | |
| Orchard/Alfalfa Mix Retail/feed | | | | |
| store/horse 2-3 tie small sq bales | Good | 100 | \$130 | |
| Other hay: None. | | | | |
| LAKE COLINITY: Tone FOR Barn/Stack | . 4 160 | | | |

Tons Price

LAKE COUNTY: Tons FOB Barn/Stack: 4,160.

Compared to last week: Supreme Alfalfa traded firm with last week's light test. Export Alfalfa not recently tested, however a mostly firm under tone was noted. Buyer demand light to moderate for all classes and types of hay. Retail hay not well tested, but a firm undertone is noted. Hay supplies are currently heavy.

| | | Ions | Price |
|---------------------------------------|---------|-------|-------|
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Supreme | 70 | \$150 |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Supreme | 630 | \$140 |
| Alfalfa Export 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 500 | \$160 |
| Alfalfa Export Mid/Ton | Premium | 2,000 | \$150 |
| Oat Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Fair | 100 | \$80 |
| Orchard Retail/feed store/horse | | | |

2-3 tie small sq bales Fair 800 \$50 Orchard/Alfalfa Mix Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton Other hay: None. **IDAHO HAY** (USDA Market News)

Compared to last week: All classes of Domestic Cattle Alfalfa traded mostly steady. Export hay fully steady. Retail hay traded steady to firm on a very thin test. Buyer demand mostly light for all classes with heavy supplies of hay. Many producers have just finished their final cutting of hay this

Oct. 2

Last week

Last year

Tons Price

This week FOB

| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Supreme | 1,100 | \$110-130 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| | Premium | 60 | \$100-105 |
| | Good/Prem | . 150 | \$100 |
| | Fair/Good | 150 | \$80 |
| | Utility | 250 | \$55 |
| Alfalfa Export Mid/Ton | Good/Prem | 2,000 | \$83-85 |
| Alfalfa Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| 2-3 tie small sq bales | Premium | 70 | \$135-150 |
| Alfalfa Retail/feed store/horse | | | |
| Mid/Ton | Premium | 70 | \$110 |
| Orchard Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton | Premium | 50 | \$125 |
| Other hav: 1.450 Tons | | | |

CALIFORNIA HAY (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash Oct. 2

This week FOB Last week Last veal 18,810 NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FOB barn/stack Tons delivered

Compared to last week, Premium and Supreme Alfalfa steady to \$5 higher. Fair and Good Alfalfa traded steady. Retail and Stable hav sold steady to firm. Grain hay steady. Buyer demand light to moderate on all classes with heavy hay supplies. Several producers reporting freezing morning temper-

| atures in parts of the local trade area. | | Tons | Price |
|--|-----------------|-----------|-------------------|
| PETALUMA Delivered prices | | 10113 | 11100 |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Premium | 250 | \$145 |
| | Good | 150 | \$135 |
| | Fair | 225 | \$110-12 |
| ESCALON-MERCED-MODESTO-TUF | RLOCK Delive | red pric | ces |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Supreme | 250 | \$147-15 |
| | Fair | 825 | \$85-90 |
| Oat Domestic Cattle | Premium | 125 | \$85 |
| NORTHERN-INTERMOUNTAIN AREA | S FOB prices | | |
| Alfalfa (Organic) Domestic Cattle | Premium | 70 | \$130 |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Supreme | 1,500 | \$110-13 |
| | Prem./Sup. | 3,000 | \$110-11 |
| | Fair | 60 | \$60 |
| | Utility | 120 | \$50 |
| Alfalfa Export | Premium | 2,000 | \$110-11 |
| Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 25 | \$145 |
| Orchard Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 75 | \$200-24 |
| | Good/Prem | . 150 | \$140-16 |
| Orchard/Alfalfa Mix | | | |
| Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 15 | \$185 |
| | Good/Prem | . 50 | \$140 |
| TRACY-PATTERSON-STOCKTON FO | | | |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Premium | 1,700 | |
| | Fair | 950 | \$65-80 |
| SACRAMENTO VALLEY FOB prices | | | |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Supreme | 650 | \$130-15 |
| | Premium | 575 | \$110-12 |
| | Good | 750 | \$100-11 |
| | Fair | 150 | \$75-90 |
| Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 850 | \$110 |
| | Good | 125 | \$55 |
| Oat Domestic Cattle | | | |
| Oat Domestic Cattle Orchard Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium Good | 105 25 | \$130-18 \$140 |

| bales Small square, per | bale | Good | 300 | \$2 |
|---|---------|------------|--------|-----------|
| Wheat Domestic Cattle | | Good | 50 | \$60 |
| Wheat Straw Retail/light<110 lb. balesGood 50 \$6 | | | | |
| Wheat Straw Retail/light<1 | 110 lb. | | | |
| bales Small square, per | bale | Good | 400 | \$2.25-3 |
| ESCALON-MERCED-MOD | ESTO-T | URLOCK FOB | prices | |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | | Supreme | 200 | \$145-150 |
| Other hay: 225 Tons. | | | | |
| CENTRAL CALIFORNIA | | | | |
| FOB barn/stack | Tons o | lelivered | | |
| 5.055 | 2,700 | | | |

firm. Fair and Good Alfalfa sold steady to weak. Retail and Stable hay sold fully steady with increased sales volume noted recently. Export hay traded mostly steady to firm. Demand light to moderate and supplies are mostly Tons Price SOUTH-CENTRAL COASTAL AREAS Delivered prices

Compared to last week: Premium and Supreme Alfalfa traded steady to

Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium 200 \$150-200
Alfalfa Stable/heavy>115 lb. bales Premium 25 \$135 Premium 25 Forage Mix Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium 200 \$150-200 Forage-Three Wav Mix Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium Oat Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium 25 \$171 Orchard Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium 75 \$240 TULARE-VISALIA-HANFORD-BAKERSFIELD Delivered prices \$240-275 Alfalfa Domestic Cattle 900 \$105-170 Premium 450 \$132 Good \$108 250 Wheat Domestic Cattle 400 \$90 Good KERN COUNTY FOB prices

Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Premium 550 \$110-115 Good 150 \$95 \$75-80 Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales 150 \$115 Good 50 Alfalfa Stable/heavy>115 lb. bales 200 \$90 WESTERN FRESNO-MADERA-FIREBAUGH FOB prices Alfalfa Domestic Cattle 600 \$80 Wheat Domestic Cattle Good 500 \$60 Los Banos-Dos Palos-Merced FOB prices Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Supreme 610 \$135-145 Premium 225 \$135-135 Sudan Export Good/Prem. 500 \$140 Wheat Straw Domestic Cattle 315 \$35 HANFORD-CORCORAN-TULARE-VISALIA FOB prices 55 \$125 Alfalfa Domestic Cattle

Other hay: 835 Tons. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOR barn/stack

Tons delivered 450 7.900 Compared to last week, Premium and Supreme Alfalfa not tested. De

CHINO-LOS ANGELES-SAN DIEGO Delivered price

mand good on large supplies of hay. Retail and Stable hay traded fully steady. Export classes traded with a steady undertone noted. Buyer demand light with instances moderate for Export and Retail hay. Hay sup plies moderate to heavy. Tons Price

Good

40 \$105

| CI III VO-LOG AI VOLLLO-GAI V DILOG D | elivered price | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------|-----------|--|--|
| Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 200 | \$150-200 | | |
| Forage Mix Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 200 | \$150-200 | | |
| Orchard Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 25 | \$350 | | |
| Timothy Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 25 | \$360 | | |
| ANTELOPE VALLEY-MOJAVE DESER | T FOB prices | | | | |
| Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 250 | \$140-160 | | |
| Forage Mix Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 75 | \$120 | | |
| Forage-Three Way Mix | | | | | |
| Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 25 | \$160 | | |
| BLYTHE-PARKER FOB prices | | | | | |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Fair | 2,000 | \$70 | | |
| Alfalfa Stable/heavy>115 lb. bales | Fair | 200 | \$90 | | |
| IMPERIAL VALLEY FOB prices | | | | | |
| Alfalfa Domestic Cattle | Fair | 1,250 | \$60-80 | | |
| Alfalfa Export | Good/Prem. | 700 | \$85 | | |
| Alfalfa Retail/light<110 lb. bales | Premium | 300 | \$110-120 | | |
| Alfalfa Stable/heavy>115 lb. bales | Premium | 250 | \$105 | | |
| | Good/Prem. | 200 | \$90 | | |
| Bermuda Domestic Cattle | Fair | 150 | \$58 | | |
| Other hay: 425 Tons. | | | | | |
| Other hay: 425 Ions. | | | | | |

NEVADA HAY (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash Oct. 2

This week FOB

1,685 3,875 3,000 Compared to last week, Premium Alfalfa steady in a light test. Demand moderate to good as more sellers are seeing more interest, supply light. Some areas reported light rain showers across the trade area. Fair Alfalfa steady to weak. Demand light with moderate to heavy supplies of carry over and

rained on hay. Retail and stable hay steady. Demand moderate and sup-

Last week

Last vea

NORTHERN -- No New Sales Confirmed. WESTERN FOB prices Premium 560 \$110 Alfalfa Domestic Cattle Mid/Ton Good 500 \$80 Forage-Four Way Mix (Organic) nestic Cattle Mid/Ton remium 100 \$100 Orchard Retail/light<110 lb. bales 25 \$180 Premium Central/East Central FOB prices

Orchard Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium 25 \$280 Timothy Retail/light<110 lb. bales Premium 25 Other hay: 350 Tons.

Grain-Rice-Bean Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Portland-St. Joseph, Mo.-Little Rock-Greeley, Colo. Grains are stated in dollars per bushel or hundredweight (cwt.) except

Rice Straw Retail/light<110 lb

feed grains traded in dollars per ton. National grain report bids are for rail delivery unless truck indicated NATIONAL GRAIN SUMMARY (USDA Market News)

St. Joseph, Mo Oct. 2 Compared to last week, grain and soybean bids were mixed. Outside market influence opened the week in positive territory driving the grain into the green. On Wednesday The USDA report for sovbeans was considered negative pegging the Sept. 1 stocks at 138.2 million bushels as compared to 110 million bushels which was 25-30 million above trade expectations. The 2008-09 U.S. soybean crop was revised up by 7.83 million bushels. The stocks-in-all-positions report for corn was considered supportive coming in at 1.674 billion bushels which was 45 million bushels below trade expectations. This compares to 1.624 billion bushels on Sept. 1, 2008, and the latest USDA ending stocks number for 2008-09 at 1.695 billion bushels. The wheat report was also negative raising all Wheat production to 2.220 billion bushels, up 36 million from the previous production report. Spring wheat and durum saw increases of 587.3 and 110.1 million bushels respectively. Wheat stocks as of Sept. 1 were 80 million bushels above trade expectations at 2.216 billion bushels. Late in the week outside markets were lower spilling over into the grains. Weekly export sales for wheat were in line with trade expectations at 538,200 tonnes for the current marketing year. Weekly export sales were very good for corn and soybeans coming in at 1,223,400 and 1.384.800 tonnes respectively. Temperatures across the Midwest have been cool and damp in some areas as rain moved in. Harvest has been sporadic across the Midwest with yields looking better than last year so far. Wheat was mostly 8-23 cents lower. Corn was 23 cents lower to 15 cents higher. Sorghum was 11 cents lower to 31 cents higher. Soybeans were mostly 9-17 cents lower WHEAT

Kansas City U.S. No. 1 Hard Red Winter, ordinary protein rail bid was 8 1/4 to 9 1/4 cents lower from \$4.29 1/2-4.74 1/2 per bushel. Kansas City U.S. No. 2 Soft Red Winter rail bid was 14 1/4 cents lower from \$4.19 1/2-4.69 1/2 per bushel. St. Louis truck U.S. No. 2 Soft Red Winter terminal bid was 23 cents lower at \$2.58 per bushel. Minneapolis and Duluth U.S. No. 1 Dark Northern Spring, 14.0 to 14.5 percent protein rail, was 22 1/2 to 37 1/2 cents lower from \$5.67 3/4-6.37 3/4 per bushel. Portland U.S. Soft White wheat rail was 10 to 12 cents lower from \$4.30-4.38 per bushel CORN

Kansas City U.S. No. 2 rail White Corn was 6 to 15 cents higher from \$3.44-3.53 per bushel. Kansas City U.S. No. 2 truck Yellow Corn was 4 cents higher from \$3.16-3.21 per bushel. Omaha U.S. No. 2 truck Yellow Corn was 2 to 5 cents higher from \$3.25-3.29 per bushel. Chicago U.S. No. 2 Yellow Corn was steady to 4 cents higher from \$3.15 1/2-3.46 1/2 per bushel. Toledo U.S. No. 2 rail Yellow corn was 3 cents lower to 1 cent higher from \$3.33 1/2-3.40 1/2 per bushel. Minneapolis U.S. No. 2 Yellow Corn rail was 23 cents OATS AND BARLEY

U.S. 2 or Better oats, rail bid to arrive at Minneapolis 20 day was steady to 5 cents higher at \$2.09 per bushel. U.S. No. 3 or better rail malting Barley 70 percent or better plump out of Minneapolis was not available per bushel Portland U.S. 2 Barley, unit trains and Barges-export was not available per

U.S. No. 2 yellow truck, Kansas City was 11 cents lower at \$4.93 per cwt. Texas High Plains U.S. No. 2 yellow sorghum (prices paid or bid to the farmer, FOB elevator) was 21 to 31 cents higher from \$4.79-5.03 per cwt. PORTLAND GRAIN

(USDA Market News) Portland Oct. 2

CASH SOFT WHITE WHEAT Pacific Northwest: Bids for U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat, any protein and maximum 10.5 percent protein, for October Portland delivery ended the reporting week on Thursday, October 1, at \$4.30 to \$4.38, mostly \$4.35, 13 to 18 cents per bushel lower compared to last Thursday's noon bids of \$4.43 to \$4.56 for October delivery. White club wheat premiums for any protein and maximum 10.5 percent protein were \$2 to \$3.50, mostly \$3.25 per bushel over bids for any protein and maximum 10.5 percent protein soft white wheat. Last Thursday's premiums were \$2 to \$3.25, mostly \$3 per bushel over soft

white wheat bids. One year ago bids for any protein U.S. 1 Soft White Wheat for first half October delivery were \$6.25 to \$6.40, mostly \$6.25, with bids for last half October delivery ranging from \$6.25 to \$6.40, mostly \$6.30. White Club Wheat premiums for one year ago for October delivery ranged from 30 to 40 cents, mostly 40 cents per bushel over soft white wheat bids. Nearby bids for any protein U.S. 1 Soft White wheat began the reporting week on Fridav as mostly \$4.35, then dropped to mostly \$4.25 on Monday, jumping to mostly \$4.40 on Tuesday, before returning to mostly \$4.35 on Wednesday and held at that level through Thursday, the reporting week's close. Lower Chicago December wheat futures for the week weighed on bids. Light new export demand were supportive to bids. There were no premiums bid by exporters for soft white wheat with a maximum of 10.5 percent protein for nearby delivery. New confirmed export sales of white wheat made during the week were limited to South Korea. Forward month bids for soft white wheat with any protein and maximum 10.5 percent protein were as follows: November \$4.40 to \$4.45: December \$4.40 to \$4.50: January \$4.40 to \$4.55; and February \$4.40 to \$4.57. One year ago, forward month bids for any protein soft white wheat were as follows: November \$6.30 to \$6.45; December \$6.35 to \$6.50; January \$6.40 to \$6.55; and February \$6.40 to \$6.55. Bids for maximum 10.5 percent protein soft white wheat one year ago were as follows: October and November not available; December \$6.50; January \$6.40 to \$6.50; and February not available.

Outstanding U.S. white wheat export sales as of Sept. 24, for the marketing year beginning June 1, 2009, and ending May 31, 2010, totaled 831.4 thousand MT compared to 897.2 thousand MT on Sept. 17, and 644.6 thousand MT one year ago. Outstanding white wheat export sales for the 2009-10 marketing year were to the following countries in 1,000 MT: Philippines 223.1 Japan 183.2. South Korea 125.5. Indonesia 71.0, Yemen 60.0, Nigeria 40.6, Singapore 13.5, Taiwan 8.8, Sri Lanka 5.0, Canada 3.7, Vietnam 1.0, Hong Kong 1.0, and total unknown 95.0. Accumulated white wheat export shipments as of Sept. 24, in 1,000 MT for the 2009-10 marketing year, totaled 1,314.8 compared to 999.9 one year ago Outstanding U.S. barley export sales as of Sept. 24, for the marketing

year beginning June 1, 2009, and ending May 31, 2010, in 1,000 MT, totaled 52.3 compared to 30.8 on Sept. 17, and 41.4 one year ago. Outstanding barley export sales were to the following countries in 1,000 MT: Canada 25.0. Japan 22.0. Mexico 4.8 and Taiwan 0.5. Accumulated barley export shipments as of Sept. 24, were 16.1 thousand MT compared to 137.7 COARSE FEEDING GRAINS

Bids for U.S. 2 Barley delivered to the coast in unit trains or barges during October were not well tested as most exporters were not issuing bids for barley. Bids for U.S. 2 Barley delivered to the inland feeding areas of Hermiston, Ore., and Yakima, Wash., were also not well tested. Bids for U.S. 2 Yellow Corn delivered to Portland in single rail cars were \$1.25 to \$2 per ton higher at \$161.50 to \$162.25, compared to last Thursday's noon bids of \$159.50 to \$161. Bids for U.S. 2 Yellow Corn truck delivered to Yakima and Hermiston were \$1.50 to \$1.75 per ton higher at \$156.50 to \$162.75 compared to last Thursday's noon bids of \$154.75 to \$161.25. Higher Chicago December corn futures for the week were supportive to cash corn bids. Bids for U.S. 2 Heavy White Oats for October delivery were not well tested but were indicated as \$140, steady with week ago indications. **CALIFORNIA GRAIN**

(USDA Market News) Portland Oct. 2 Prices in dollars per cwt., bulk Inc.= including; Nom.= nominal; Ltd.= lim-

ited; Ind.= indicated; NYE=Not fully estimated

| KAIN DEL | IVERED | |
|------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Mode | Destination | Price per cwt. |
| BARLEY - U | J.S. No. 2 (46-lbs. per bushel) | |
| Γruck | Petaluma-Santa Rosa | \$7.50-8.25 |
| | Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock | \$7.50-8.15 |
| Rail | Any origin | |
| | Stockton-Modesto-Oakdale-Turlock | |
| | via Union Pacific and BNSF | NA |
| | Tulare - via Union Pacific | Ind. \$7.55 |
| CORN - U.S | 5. No. 2 Yellow | |
| Fruck | Petaluma-Santa Rosa | \$7.55-7.65 |
| | Charleton Madanta Caledala Toulant | CO 45 0 47 |

27 and 54 car units via BNSF

| | Chino Valley | \$7.92-7.94 |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| | Los Angeles | \$8.24-8.26 |
| WHEAT - | U.S. No. 2 or better - Hard Red Winter | |
| | (Domestic Values for Flour Milling) Califo | rnia origin |
| | 13 percent Protein | \$9.82-10.16 |
| | Truck/Rail 12 percent Protein | \$9.16-9.49 |
| SORGHU | M - U.S. No. 2 Yellow | |
| Rail | Los Angeles-Chino Valley | \$8.31 |
| | via BNSF Single | \$8.24 |
| OATS - U. | S. No. 2 White | |
| Truck | Petaluma-Stockton-Modesto-Turlock | Ind. \$9 |
| | Los Angeles-Chino Valley | \$11.50-11.75 |
| WHEAT - | Any Class for Feed | |
| Truck | Petaluma | \$8.15-8.30 |
| | Stocktn-Modesto-Turlock | \$8.15-8.50 |
| | L.AChino Valley | \$9-9.50 |
| Prices p | aid to California farmers, seven-day reporting pe | eriod ending Oct. |
| 2: | | |

WHEAT, U.S. No. 1, Hard Amber Durum for Flour Milling \$7.65 del, local Elevator current YELLOW CORN, U.S. No. 2 or better FOB Ranch \$6.35 AH Oct Fob Ranch NATIONAL BEAN REPORT (Federal-State Market News) Greeley, Colo.

Dealer prices per cwt. carlot/trucklot FOB basis U.S. No. 1 cleaned and bagged; grower prices thresher run, clean basis except California cleaned and bagged FOB country warehouse. (Not est.-price not established; Ltd.limited sales reported; Mst.-most.)

Oct. 6

Dry Edible Bean market activity was slow to moderate. Grower level prices are becoming more established as dealers begin to receive inquiries from end users. All prices are quoted on new crop basis Dealer Grower

Commodity **Pintos** Ltd. \$42-44 Ltd. \$30-32 Washington Ltd. \$41 Ltd. \$28-30 Great Northern Not Est Not Est. Small White V Ltd. \$46 Not Est. Wash./Idaho Wash /Idaho Ltd. \$45-46 Ltd \$30-32 Small Red Ltd. \$42-45 Ltd. \$30-32 Garbanzo \$37-38 \$28-29 CALIFORNIA

Dealer market trading activity was very slow. Demand light to moderate. Grower market trading activity was very slow as harvest continues. with limited grower values being established on an as needed basis. Baby Lima Not Est Not Est Large Lima Ltd. \$72-74 V Ltd. \$70 Blackeye Garbanzo (54/58s)
PEAS AND LENTILS

WASHINGTON AND IDAHO Dealer market trading activity remains slow. Demand was light. Grower

market trading activity was slow to moderate as new grop harvest progress-

| Green Pea Split | Ltd. \$20-21 | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------|--|
| Green Pea Whl | Ltd. \$14.25-15 | Ltd. \$9-10 | |
| Yellow. Pea Split | Not Est. | | |
| Yellow Pea Whl | Not Est. | Ltd. \$8-9 | |
| Aust. Wntr Pea | Ltd. \$30-32 | Ltd. \$18 | |
| Lentil | Ltd. \$30-32 | Ltd. \$22-24 | |
| Pardina | Ltd. \$30-32 | Ltd. \$22-24 | |
| | | | |

Turn to GRAINS, Page 15

Potato Reports

Compiled by North American Potato Market News and USDA Agricultural Marketing Service

Prices are weekly averages of daily prices. All prices are in dollars per hundredweight (cwt). FWA is a weighted average of shipping point prices for common packs in each area. Weights differ by area. GRI is the Grower Returns Index for each individual area

FRESH RUSSET POTATO MARKET REPORT (North American Potato Market News) (USDA Market News) Oct. 3

Downward pressure continues on prices in spite of harvest delays. Grower returns are below production costs

|) I L | | | | | | | |
|--------------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|---------|
| WA. | Chg | GRI | Chg | 70 ct | Chg | 10 lb. Film | Chg |
| DAHO BURBANK | | | | | | | |
| 11.36 | -\$1.14 | \$5.02 | -\$0.69 | \$15 | -\$1 | \$7.50 | -\$1.50 |
| DAHO NO | RKOTAH | | | | | | |
| 9.83 | -\$0.93 | \$4.31 | -\$0.70 | \$12 | -\$1 | \$7.50 | -\$1 |
| COLUMBIA | A BASIN | | | | | | |
| 10.99 | -\$0.93 | \$4.92 | -\$0.58 | \$12.50 | -\$0.50 | \$8.50 | -\$2 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

Hog Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Des Moines

Feeder prices in dollars per hundred pounds unless

Country live price based 74 percent dress, plan price based on 75 percent dress. Prices based on individual packer buying programs. No grade premiums or discounts included. Calculated percent lean may include premiums, i.e. delivery time or other incentives.

IOWA/MINNESOTA DAILY DIRECT HOGS (USDA Market News) Des Moines, Iowa Oct. 2

Barrows and gilts (carcass basis): 6.541 Compared to prior day's closing weighted average

Base Price Range \$40-49.66, Weighted Average 5-day rolling average market hog: 201.55 lb. car-

cass 0.76 inch back-fat 6.72 square inch loin/2.24 inch loin depth, FFLI: 51 percent. Price range \$43.50-51.66. Purchase volume by state of origin: Iowa 100,181504

U.S. DIRECT DELIVERED FEEDER PIG (USDA Market News) Des Moines, Iowa Oct. 2

Delivered prices are quoted on a per-head basis delivered to the buyer's farm. These prices include commission/brokerage fees if applicable and may also include tariff duties. Estimated 50-54 percent lean value at base slaughter weights. Early weaned pigs are under 19 days old and many sold with \$1 per pound slide. Most feeder pigs sold with 25-40 cents per pound slide. All prices quoted are on a per-head basis.

This week Last week 130,158 100.606

Compared to last week, early weaned pigs and all feeder pigs steady to \$3 per head higher. Demand moder ate for moderate offerings. Receipts include 33 percent

Formula Cash SEW 10 lb. basis \$22.38-39.19 \$8-36

California Egg Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Long Beach, Calif.

Shell egg marketer's benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade AA and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract to DAILY CALIFORNIA SHELL EGGS

(USDA Market News) Des Moines, Iowa Oct. 2

Benchmark prices were unchanged. Asking prices for next week were unchanged for jumbo, extra large, and large, and 1 cent higher for medium and small. Trade sentiment was steady for all sizes. Demand was light to moderate while offerings were adequate. Floor stocks balanced to adequate. Small benchmark price 83 cents.

Size Range Size Range Jumbo 130 Extra large 123 Medium 103 Large SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade AA and Grade AA, white eggs in cartons, delivered Range Size Range

108-111 87-90

Cattle Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Oklahoma City-Des Moines-St. Joseph-Phoenix-Moses Lake.

Cattle prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals per pair or head as indicated

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER CATTLE (Federal-State Market News) Oklahoma City-Des Moines-Phoenix Oct. 2 Compared to last week: Slaughter cattle trade

was light to moderate Thursday with the market under pressure once again and trends were lower. Texas and Kansas sold \$1.50 lower. Nebraska live trade was \$1.50-2 lower and \$2-3 lower on a dressed basis. Packers are cautious with a lower futures market and a soft beef market. Supplies of market ready cattle remains at least adequate in the South and fairly heavy in the North. Some packers continue to discount heavy carcasses over 1000 lbs. Slaughter rates backed off some this week as packers try to mand. The boxed beef cut-out values Friday morning averaged \$132.85 down \$2.68 from last Friday. The Choice/Select spread is now at \$4.21. Slaughter cattle on a national basis for negotiated cash trades through Friday morning totaled 106,500 head. Last week's movement totaled 156,100 head

Midwest Direct Markets: Live Basis: Steers and Heifers 35-80 Percent Choice, 1200-1400 lbs. \$78.50-82. Dressed Basis: Steers and Heifers:

High Plains Direct Markets: Live Basis: Steers and Heifers 35-65 percent Choice, 1100-1400 lbs. \$83

Slaughter Cows and Bulls (Average Yielding Prices): Slaughter cows and bulls mostly steady to \$3 lower this week. Receipts continue to increase slowly as the fall culling draws near. A third dairy heard reduction began this week adding to the supply as well. USDA's Cutter cow carcass cut-out value Friday morning was \$102.44 down \$1.02 from last Friday's close

NATIONAL FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE (Federal-State Market News)

St. Joseph, Mo.

Oct. 2 This week Last week Last year 349,100 323,500 395,700

Compared to last week, feeder cattle and calves sold weak to \$3 lower with some mid-tolate week auctions reporting even sharper losses. Direct trade was very light, again this week, with sellers passing bids that were \$2-3 lower than the ones they passed up last week. All classes of cattle and beef markets posted significantly lower prices for the week; with Live and Feeder futures over \$3 lower, cash fed cattle trading \$1.50-2 lower, Choice boxed beef cut-out values \$3.89 lower, and even the average drop (hide and offal) value fell nearly \$.50 to \$8.35 cwt which is \$3.09 lower than the same time a year ago. Plus, yet another dairy buyout program has been announced for this year. Most cattle feeders have now given up on getting the finished market up to \$90, as all the out-front CME contracts are the low- to mid-\$80s with the exception of December 2010 which is currently trading at \$88.50. Feedlot replacement buyers are now determined to buy feeder cattle well below \$100 and hope they feed for close to \$.60/lb. cost of gain (or better) to try and scratch out a profit. One bright spot for the cattle feeder has been the outstanding performance of cattle over the last several months. Many cattle that were put on feed early in the mild summer and expected to gain a little over 3 lbs./day, actually put on over 4 lbs./day which has caused much of the heavyweight problems in the Northern Plains. The heavy carcasses (over 1000 lbs.) that these big cattle are yielding have caused increased pressure to the already pressurized finished market. Many of the typical dressed sales of eastern Nebraska showlists are actually now considered to be negotiated grid pricing as discounts (mostly \$15-20 cwt dressed) are routinely imposed, how-

ever some packers are using a 10 percent toler-

ance of heavyweights as a bargaining tool. Wheat

grazing backgrounders have yet to fully enter the

ightweight calf market and farmer feeders remain

mostly quiet, as both are pre-occupied with their

farming operations. Wheat pastures should be

stocked by early November and independent feed-

ers want cattle delivered as soon as the last load of grain is hauled from the field, but both would like to wait until a hard freeze which normally cuts down on sickness problems. Value added calves were a hot commodity in Burwell, Neb., last Friday as a 200 head string of 495 lb.. process verified steers brought \$122, while their 550-700 lb. brothers traded from \$113-115.50. The top sellers were actually a reputation crop of light red/dark yellow hided calves that were pre-conditioned. This week's reported auction volume included 47 percent over 600 lbs. and 43 percent heifers.

<u>AUCTIONS</u> Last week Last year This week 250,700 241,500 MONTANA: 8,700. 59 pct over 600 lbs. 52 pct

heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1 300-350 lbs. \$116.31; 350-400 lbs. \$114.32; 400-450 lbs \$114.66; 450-500 lbs. \$110.82; 500-550 lbs 550_600 lbs \$96 96 600. 650-700 lbs. \$99.81; 700-750 lbs. \$96.02; 750-800 lbs. \$94.60; 800-850 lbs. \$91.10; 850-900 lbs. \$90.52; 900-950 lbs. \$97.98; 950-1000 lbs. \$87.28. Medium and Large 1-2 700-750 lbs. \$91.94; near load 870 lbs. \$88. Heifers: Medium and Large 1 300-350 lbs. \$103.97; 350-400 lbs. \$102.57; 400-450 lbs. \$101.13; 450-500 lbs. \$98.21; 500-550 lbs. \$90.48: 550-600 lbs. \$88.37: 600-650 lbs. \$92.11; 650-700 lbs. \$90.15; 700-750 lbs. \$86.23; 750-800 lbs. \$86.63; 800-850 lbs. \$85.07; 850-900 lbs. \$85.34; 900-950 lbs. \$84.57; 950-1000 lbs. \$83.68. Medium and Large 1-2 600-650 lbs. \$87.95; 650-700 lbs. \$84.28; 850-900 lbs.

WASHINGTON 2,500. 52 pct over 600 lbs. 49 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 450-500 lbs. \$95.14; 500-550 lbs. \$94.64; 550-600 lbs. \$92.35; 750-800 lbs. \$85.46; 800-850 lbs. \$85. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 400-450 lbs. \$83.76; 450-500 lbs. \$85.28; 500-550 lbs. \$80.33; 550-600 lbs. \$81.80; lot 681 lbs. \$77.28; 700-750lbs. \$82.04; pkg 841 lbs. \$81.

REPLACEMENTS St. Joseph, Mo. - Medium and Large 1-2 3-6 year old 1280-1350 lb. third stage good quality black bred cows \$1100, second stage \$885; pkg short and solid mouthed 1460 lbs. mixed colored fleshy second stage bred cows \$825; pkg aged 1180 lb. second stage blacks \$550. Pairs: Medium and Large 1 consignment 4-7 year old 1000-1150 lb. good quality - average to thin fleshed black cows w/small newborn to 125 lb. calves \$1150-1325. Medium and Large 1-2 consignment 4-6 year old 1250-1300 lb. average quality black cows w/200-300 lb. calves \$1150, few red and thinner cows sorted from \$1000.

La Junta, Colo. - Medium and Large 1 Young calving March and April lot 1000 lbs. \$775. Pairs: Medium and Large 1 young 1100-1200 lbs. with 200 to 225 lb. calves \$900-910. Middle age 1125-1225 lbs. with 200 to 250 lb. calves \$800-885. Short solid mouth lot 1250 lbs. with 250 to 300 lb. calves \$825. Aged 1150-1250 lb. calves with 250 to 300 lb. calves \$700-760. DIRECT

Last week Last year This week 48 900 38,500 31,400 SOUTHWEST (Arizona-California-Nevada)

14,700. 7 pct over 600 lbs. 2 pct heifers. Steers Medium and Large 1-2 Current 850 lbs. \$90.75 FOB; 725 lbs. \$95 FOB. Holsteins: Large 3 Delivered Price Current 300 lbs. \$87-88 del; November 400 lbs. \$85 del; Jan 275 lbs. \$94-100 Del; February 275 lbs. \$100 del. Heifers: Medium and large 1-2 Current 630 lbs. \$92 FOB; 765 lbs. \$85.50 NORTHWEST (Washington-Oregon-Idaho)

4,300. 92 pct over 600 lbs. 60 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 600 lbs. \$95 calves Idaho; 650 lbs. \$85 fleshy calves Oregon; 850-900 lbs. \$89 Washington. Future Delivery - 650-700 lbs. \$100-102.50 calves for November Oregon-Washington early. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 500-550 lbs. \$93 Idaho; 600-650 lbs. \$81 fleshy Oregon; 800-850 lbs. \$80-87.50 Washington-Oregon; 900-950 lbs. \$86 ldaho. Large 1-2 1000-1050 lbs. \$82 Idaho. Delivered Prices - 600-650 lbs. \$91 calves Oregon; Future Delivery - 550-600 lbs. \$92-92.50 for November Washington-Oregon; 600-650 lbs. \$94-96.50 calves for November Wash-

Turn to CATTLE, Page 15

California SHASTA (Shasta Livestock Auction) Cottonwood, Calif.

Oct. 2 This week Last week

Compared to last week, demand soft and spotty this week amid tough fat and futures market. Slaughter cows \$3-4 lower. Bulls steady to \$2 lower. Heiferettes strong. Cattle under 650 steady to \$1 higher. Yearlings \$2-3 lower. Off lots & singles \$7-15 lower than top offerings.

Slaughter cows: Breakers \$41-47, \$48-54 high dress; Boning \$35-40; Cutters \$30-34.

Bulls 1 and 2: \$49-57; \$58-66.75 high dress Feeder steers: 300-400 lbs. \$105-120; 400-450 lbs \$105-115; 450-500 lbs. \$103-111; 500-550 lbs. \$95-103; 550-600 lbs. \$92-103.75; 600-650 lbs. \$90-97 650-700 lbs. \$83-88.25; 700-750 lbs. \$81-90.50; 750

800 lbs. \$83-87.25; 800-900 lbs. \$80-87. Feeder heifers: 300-400 lbs. \$95-109.50; 400-450 lbs \$93-103.50: 450-500 lbs. \$88-102.50: 500-550 lbs \$83-93: 550-600 lbs. \$83-92.50: 600-650 lbs. \$80 90.75; 650-700 lbs. \$80-83.25; 700-750 lbs. \$75-82 750-800 lbs. \$75-80; 800-900 lbs. \$74-80.

Pairs: No test.

Calvy Cows: No test Idaho

CALDWELL (Treasure Valley Livestock)

Steers: 300-400 lbs. \$91.75: 400-500 lbs. \$80: 500-600 lbs. \$79: 600-700 lbs. \$77: 700-800 lbs. \$75: 800-900 lbs. \$67.50; 900-1000 lbs. \$70; 1000 lbs. and up

Heifers: 300-400 lbs. \$77.25; 400-500 lbs. \$77.50; 500-600 lbs. \$66; 600-700 lbs. \$72; 700-800 lbs. \$76; 800-900 lbs. \$78.50; 1000 lbs. and up \$47.

Cows: 700-800 lbs. \$40.75; 800-900 lbs. \$38.50 900-1000 lbs. \$39.75; 1000-1100 lbs. \$40; 1100-1200 lbs. \$41.75 1200-1300 lbs. \$42.50; 1300-1400 lbs. \$43; 1400-1500 lbs. \$43; 1500-1600 lbs. \$44; 1600-1700 lbs. \$44; 1700-1800 lbs. \$46.25; 1800-1900 lbs. \$46.25; 1900-2000 lbs \$46.75; 2000 lbs, and up \$45.75.

Bull calves (wt): 300-400 lbs \$90.75: 400-500 lbs \$71; 500-600 lbs. \$80; 600-700 lbs. \$74.50; 800-900 lbs \$50; 1200-1300 lbs. \$47; 1300-1400 lbs. \$49.25; 1400-1500 lbs. \$41.

Bulls (wt.): 1500-1600 lbs. \$49; 1600-1700 lbs. \$50.50 1700-1800 lbs. \$50; 1800-1900 lbs. \$55; 1900-2000 lbs. \$53.75; 2000-2100 lbs. \$55.25; 2100-2200 lbs.

Stock cows: 800 lbs. and up \$500. Bull calves (hd.): 100-200 lbs. \$80; 200-300 lbs.

Washington

DAVENPORT (Stockland Livestock Auction) (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash

Heifer calves (hd.): 100-200 lbs. \$135; 200-300 lbs.

Steer calves (hd.): 200-300 lbs. \$215; 300-400 lbs

COTTONWOOD

(Cottonwood Livestock Auction)

Oct. 2

Market comment: Light calves steady. Heavy feed-

Steers: 200-400 lbs., \$101-113; 400-500 lbs., \$98-

Heifers: 200-400 lbs., \$94-106; 400-500 lbs., \$91-103;

Cows: boning \$39-45.50; feeder \$41-47; breake

\$38.50-44; canner/cutter \$33-38.50; heiferettes \$45-

500-600 lbs., \$85-95; 600-700 lbs., \$78-84; 700-800

107; 500-600 lbs., \$94-106; 600-700 lbs., \$83-96; 700-

Pairs (hd.): 1000 lbs. and up \$875.

800 lbs. \$83-88; 800-950 lbs., \$81-86.

lbs., \$75-81; 800-950 lbs., \$73-78.

Bulls: \$43-58 per head.

Pairs: \$850-1065 per pair

Baby calves: \$75-225 per head.

Stock cows: \$550-850 per head.

\$205; 300-400 lbs. \$185.

Total receipts: 290.

ers \$2-4 lower.

\$185

Oct. 6 This week Last week Last year

845 Compared to last week, feeder cattle steady to weak instances \$1-2 lower. Feeder Cattle were second day of Special Carlot sale. Slaughter cows, steady to \$2 higher. Slaughter Bulls near steady. Trade and demand was moderate to active. Slaughter cows made up 18 percent of the offering, slaughter bulls 1 percent, replacement cows less than 1 percent and feeder cattle 80 per-

cent. The feeder supply included 58 percent steers and

bulls, 42 percent heifers and cows. Near 56 percent of

run weighed over 600 lbs. Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$91-105; 400-500 lbs. \$91-105; 500-600 lbs. \$85-95; 600-700 lbs. \$86.75-95; 700-800 lbs. \$82-93.25; 800-900 lbs. \$83-88.

Feeder Steers: Large 1-2: 900-950 lbs. \$85; 950-1000 lbs. \$66-74;1000-1100 lbs. \$72-74; 1100-1250 lbs. \$61.0-67; 1500-1750 lbs. \$50.

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2: 400-500 lbs. \$84 86; 500-600 lbs. \$75-87.75; 700-750 lbs. \$62-65

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$81-85; 400-500 lbs. \$80-95; 500-600 lbs. \$76-89; 600-700 lbs. \$76-86; 700-800 lbs. \$71.50-82.50; 800-850 lbs. \$71.25. Feeder Heifers: Large 1-2: 850-900 lbs. \$70; 900-950

Feeder Cows: Medium and Large 1-2: Heiferettes

950-1000 lbs. \$44.50-46; Young age 850-1175 lbs.

\$38 50-41 75

Slaughter Cows: Breaking 75-80 percent lean 1550-1875 lbs. \$43-45; Boning 80-85 percent lean 1000-1800 lbs. \$40.25-45; Lean 85-90 percent lean 1200-1725 lbs. \$38-43.75; Lean 85-90 percent lean 850-1200 lbs. \$34.75-42; Lean 90s percent lean 950-1175 lbs. \$20-26

Slaughter Bulls: Yield Grade 1-2: 1100-1400 lbs \$42.25-48, 1400-2350 lbs. \$52.25-55.25.

Baby Calves: Medium and Large 1-2: 250-275 lbs. \$260 per head: Large 2-3; Holsteins 100-115 lbs. \$30

Cow/Calf pairs: Medium and Large 1-2: Young to middle age 1000-1300 lbs, with 200-350 lb. calves,

Hogs: 8. Barrows and gilts: U.S. 1-2 34 lbs. \$37.50

per head. Sheep: 6. Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1-270

lbs. \$85-86. Ewes: Choice 1-2 wooled 150-175 lbs \$31 Goats (per head): 81. Kids: Selection 1-2 20-30 lbs

\$10-14; 35-40 lbs. \$26-27.50; 50-60 lbs. \$53; 65-80 lbs. \$72.50-85. Nannies: Selection 1-2 90-95 lbs. \$55; 105-120 lbs. \$65-80; 160-180 lbs. \$90-92.50. Billies Selection 1-2 115-185 lbs. \$85.

TOPPENISH (Toppenish Livestock Auction) (USDA Market News) Moses Lake, Wash.

Last month Last year This week 1,625 1,130 900

Compared to last Thursday at same market, feede cattle \$2-4 lower. Trade slow with light demand. Slaughter cows \$1-2 higher. Slaughter bulls \$1-3 lower. Trade active with good demand. Slaughter cows made up 39 percent of the offering; Slaughter bulls 5 percent, Replacement cows 10 percent and feeders 46 percent of the supply. The feeder supply included 41 percent steers and 59 percent heifers. Near 51 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1-2: 400-500 lbs \$89.50-94; 500-600 lbs. \$87.25-92.75; 600-700 lbs \$85.25-89, Calves; 700-800 lbs. \$85-87.25; 800-900 lbs. \$84.75-85.25. Large 1-2: 900-1000 lbs. \$78-81.50 Small and Medium 1-2: 300-400 lbs \$91. Small and Medium 2-3: 400-500 lbs. \$70. Full. Small and Medium 3-4: 600-700 lbs. \$54.50, Full. Small 4: 500-600 lbs. \$27, Mexican Origin; 600-700 lbs. \$30.50, Mexican Ori-

Holstein Steers Large 2-3: 300-400 lbs. \$75. Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2: 500-600 lbs \$79.50-81.25; 600-700 lbs. \$79.85; 700-800 lbs. \$78. Large 2-3: 600-700 lbs. \$42.50.

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$83-89; 400-500 lbs. \$79.50-86; 500-600 lbs. \$75-81; 600-700 lbs. \$76.75-77.75; 600-700 lbs. \$80-82.85 Calves: 700-800 lbs. \$80-82.25: 800-900 lbs. \$81: 800-900 lbs. \$65. Full. Large 1-2: 900-1000 lbs. \$72-72.50 Large 2-3: 700-800 lbs. \$58.50; 800-900 lbs. \$58.50

lbs. \$46.25. Small and Medium 1-2: 300-400 lbs. \$80.50; 400-500 lbs. \$77; 500-600 lbs. \$72. Small and Medium 2-3: 200-300 lbs. \$80; 500-600 lbs. \$52.50, Full; 600-700 lbs. \$75.

900-1000 lbs. \$60: 1200-1300 lbs. \$47.25: 1300-1400

Feeder Bulls Medium and Large 1-2: 500-600 lbs \$79.50-81.25; 600-700 lbs. \$79.85; 700-800 lbs. \$78. Large 2-3: 600-700 lbs. \$42.50.

Replacement Cows: Pretested for pregnancy and age with an April 15 cutoff for calving unless otherwise stated

Bred Cows (Per Head): Medium and Large 1-2: Mid-Aged 1100-1600 lbs 1-6 mos bred \$785-875. Medium and Large 2-3: 1150-1300 lbs 1-3 mos bred \$560-675. Slaughter Cows: Breakers 75-80 percent lean 1300 1900 lbs. \$44-48; Boners 80-85 percent lean 1200-1900 lbs. \$43-48; Lean 85-90 percent lean 1200-1800 lbs. \$43-47; Lean 85-90 percent lean 800-1200 lbs. \$38-43; Lean 90s percent lean 800-1200 lbs. \$30-35. Slaughter Bulls, Yield Grade 1-2: 1000-2350 lbs.

Oregon

EUGENE (Eugene Livestock Auction)

Oct. 2 Total receipts: 675. Compared to last week, cows and bulls steady off

slightly; feeder steers steady; heifers off. Top cows: high dressers \$36-44, low dressers \$30-36: top \$10 40.43.

Top bulls: high dressers \$40-52.50. Feeder bulls: 500-700 lbs. \$64-86.50.

Choice feeder steers medium to large frame No. 1 and No. 2: 300-400 lbs. \$75-92; 400-500 lbs. \$80-94; 500-600 lbs. \$80-92; 600-700 lbs. \$75-87; 700-800 lbs. \$70-75.75

Choice feeder steers medium to large frame No. 1 and No. 2: 300-400 lbs. \$70-80: 400-500 lbs. \$70-80: 25: 500-600 lbs. \$70-80; 600-700 lbs. \$68-75.50; 700-800

Bred cows: \$350-835 hd. Feeder lambs: 50-90 lbs. \$ 90-95; 90-130 lbs. \$85-

KLAMATH (Klamath Livestock Auction) Sept. 29

Total receipts: 340 head

Choice steers: 300 lbs., \$99-115; 400 lbs., \$106-115; 500 lbs., \$98-107; 600 lbs., \$97-107; 700 lbs, \$70-77: 800 lbs. \$75.50-84.25.

Choice Heifers: 300 lbs., \$97.50-99; 400 lbs., \$95-107.50: 500 lbs. \$95-97: 700 lbs.. \$75.50-82.50: 800 lbs.. \$76-77.

Slaughter cows: High yield \$48-55; med. yield \$40-42; Low yield \$30-39. Slaughter bulls: High yield \$50.25-65.25

Top cows \$55. Top bull: \$65.25 Cow/calf pair \$710-920

Total receipts: 314 head; butcher cows 194, butcher bulls 8.

Top cow \$47.75; top 10 cows \$47; top 50 cows \$44.74; top 100 cows \$42.30; top 150 cows \$39; all cows \$35.63; top bull \$56; all bulls \$48.64.

(Lebanon Auction Yard)

Oct. 1

Steers: 400-500 lbs. \$90; 500-600 lbs. \$91.50: 600 Heifers: 400-500 lbs. \$78; 500-600 lbs. \$78.50; 600-

700 lbs. \$80.

Cow/calf pairs: \$600-730 VALE

(Producers Livestock Auction) Sept. 30

Total receipts: 894 head. Comments: steer calf market \$2 higher. Heifer calf

market steady. Moderate demand throughout. Steer calves: 300-400 lbs. bulk \$109-117, top \$118.50; 400-500 lbs. bulk \$99-111, top \$113; 500 600 lbs. bulk \$97-106, top \$107.25.

Heifer calves: 300-400 lbs. bulk \$94-105, top \$106; 400-500 lbs. bulk \$92-101, top \$102; 500-600 lbs. bulk \$84-91, top \$91.75. Yearling steers: 600-700 lbs. bulk \$87-97, top \$98.75:

700-800 lbs. bulk \$82-88. top \$88.25: 800-900 lbs bulk \$83-88, top \$88.50; 900-1,000 lbs. bulk \$79-94, top \$84. Yearling heifers: 600-700 lbs. bulk \$82-87.50, top

\$89.75; 700-800 lbs. bulk \$80-87, top \$88.50; 800-900 lbs. bulk \$77-82, top \$83; 900-1,000 lbs. N/T. Butcher cows bulk \$39-45, top \$48.

Thin shelly cows, bulk \$27-38; younger hfrts: \$45-Butcher bulls bulk \$44-51, top \$53.50.

Texas

SAN ANGELO (Producers Livestock Auction) (USDA-Texas Market News)

Sept. 30 Last week Last year This week 9.231 8.205 10.264

Compared to the last week, nannies steady; kids firm to \$2 higher. Trading and demand moderate. Supply included 20 percent slaughter lambs, 25 percent slaughter ewes, balance goats. GOATS: Estimated 55 percent of receipts

Slaughter kids: Selection 1 25-40 lbs. \$112-122; 40

80 lbs. \$112-124; 80-100 lbs. \$111-118. Selection 1-2 25-40 lbs. \$100-110: 40-80 lbs. \$100-112: 80-100 lbs \$90-106. Selection 2 30-40 lbs. \$90-95; 40-80 lbs. \$90-

Slaughter does and nannies: Selection 1-2 80-130 lbs, \$37-48, few 48-52.50; 130-160 lbs, \$35-45; thin 70-115 lbs. \$25-37.50

Slaughter bucks and billies: Selection 1-2 70-100 lbs. \$85-96; 100-150 lbs. \$70-92, yearlings \$91-96 150-250 lbs. \$62-92.

National Sheep/Wool Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service, Greeley, Colo.-

San Angelo, Texas Wool prices in cents per pound and foreign currency per kilogram, sheep prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals on per head basis as indicated.

NATIONAL WOOL REVIEW (USDA Market News) Greeley, Colo.

Domestic wool trading on a clean basis was very slow this week. With no confirmed sales this week. De-

All prices reported on a weighted average price. Greasy wool trading was very slow this week. With no confirmed sales this week. Demand moderate. Prices are reported on a weighted average. FSA Wool LDP payment unchanged at \$.29 per

pound net grower on a greasy basis. This week's Mohair LDP down \$.06 at \$.57 per pound. Domestic Wool Tags - delivered to buyer, greasy

#1 \$ 25-30 \$.15-.20 #2 \$.05-.10

Mohair trading activity was at a standstill this week With no confirmed sales this week

NATIONAL SHEEP SUMMARY (USDA Market News)

San Angelo, Texas Oct. 2 Compared to last week slaughter lambs mostly steady, instances \$1-3 higher; slaughter ewes steady;

feeder lambs steady to \$4 higher At San Angelo, Texas, 8,205 head sold in a oneday sale.

Equity Electronic Auction sold 595 slaughter lambs in Wisconsin and North Dakota. In direct trading slaughter ewes and feeder lambs steady. 3,400 head of negotiated sales of slaughter lambs were firm and 19,300 head of formulated sales were \$1-2 lower. 10,579

lamb carcasses sold with 65 lbs and down higher: 65 lbs and up \$.10-1.83 lower. SLAUGHTER LAMBS Choice and Prime 90-160 lbs.: San Angelo: shorn and wooled 90-120 lbs. \$85-95 Intermountain area (Colo., Wyo., Mont.): wooled 112 lbs. \$87; 115-140 lbs. \$88-93.50.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS Good and Choice 1-2 San Angelo: 40-60 lbs. \$100-110, set 112; 60-70 lbs. \$93-106; 70-100 lbs. \$90-100, set \$102. Hair lambs 40-95 lbs. \$90-105, few \$105-112.

Intermt. area: 50-70 lbs. \$93-103; 70-80 lbs. \$90.50-

95.50; 80-85 lbs. \$95-101; 90-110 lbs. \$85-101. Hair

lambs 61 lbs. \$101: 70-80 lbs. \$88-94: 80-90 lbs. \$85.50-DIRECT TRADING (lambs FOB with 3-4 percent shrink or equivalent): 3,400 Slaughter lambs shorn and wooled 130-150

lbs. \$91.97-99 (wtd avg \$96.12); no dressed sales re-Idaho: 300 Slaughter Ewes Utility and Good 1-3

\$25: Cull 1 \$15. SLAUGHTER EWES San Angelo: Good 2-3 \$25-35; Utility and Good 1-

3 \$35-48; Utility 1-2 27.\$50-36; Cull and Utility 1-2 \$20-30.50: Cull 1 \$8-20.

Billings, Mont .: no test. FEEDER LAMBS Medium and Large 1-2 San Angelo: 57 lbs. \$99: 60-90 lbs. \$92-95. Intermt area: 60-70 lbs. \$107.50-110.50; 83 lbs

\$103; 100-110 lbs. \$92.50-99.50; 110-120 lbs. \$91-93.25; 120-130 lbs. \$91-92.75. REPLACEMENT EWES Medium and Large 1-2:

San Angelo: Yearlings \$50 per head; solid mouth \$54.50 per head. Billings, Mont .: no test

NATIONAL WEEKLY LAMB CARCASS Choice and Prime 1-4: Wtd. avg. Weight

45 lbs. down \$293.98 \$248.03 \$213.02 \$206.15 75-85 lbs. \$203.23 85 lbs. and up \$197.08

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 49,000 compared with 52,000 last week and 49,000 last year.

Shipping Point Trends

Compiled by USDA Market News Service Washington, D.C

Unless otherwise stated, shipments are for the weeks ending Sept. 19, Sept. 26, and Oct. 3. Expected movement is for the period Oct. 4-17. Prices are for Monday, Oct. 5, compared with Monday, Sept. 28.

BROCCOLI

ALL CALIFORNIA DISTRICTS---Shipments 155-146-

Vegetables

121--

SALINAS-WATSONVILLE, CALIF.---Movement ex pected about the same as the 88 units shipped last week. Trading early fairly active, late active, Prices much higher. Cartons bunched 14s mostly \$13.45-14.50, 18s most ly \$13.95-15, 20 pound cartons loose Crown Cut mostly

\$16-16.55. Quality variable CABBAGE ALL CALIFORNIA DISTRICTS---Shipments 25-25-24---CENTRAL COAST, CALIF .--- Movement expected about the same as the 10 units shipped last week. Trad-

ing moderate. Prices higher, 50 pound cartons 18-24s Round Green type mostly \$9.45-10.15, Red type \$9.45-10.15. Quality generally good.

ONIONS, DRY COLUMBIA BASIN, WASH., AND UMATILLA BASIN ORE.---Shipments 347*-341*-298 (includes export of 85-85*-85)---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading fairly slow. Prices generally unchanged. Yellow Hybrid 50-pound sacks colossal \$6-7, jumbo mostly \$5.50, medium mostly \$5. Yellow Hybrid-Marked Sweet 40pound carton jumbo mostly \$12, White Type 50-pound

GRAINS, from Page 14

NATIONAL RICE SUMMARY

(USDA Market News)

St. Joseph, Mo.

Domestic shipment: Offers, FOB mills, milled rice,

dollars per cwt, bagged. (All milled rice grade 2 not to

exceed percent brokens, except California grade 1. All

second heads grade 4 or better, Second heads and

Long Grain \$23.50-25 Arkansas; \$23.75-29 Texas;

\$23.50-23.50 Louisiana. Medium Grain \$31.50-33

Arkansas: \$31.50-35 Louisiana: \$43.50-46 California.

Short Grain \$44.50-47 California. Parboiled \$27.50-31

Arkansas; \$28-38 Texas; \$34 Louisiana. Second Heads

\$18-19 Arkansas; \$18-20 Texas; \$17.50-18 Louisiana;

\$16-17 California. Brewers \$16-18 Arkansas; \$15.50-

Rice bran \$85-95 Arkansas; \$80-85 Texas; \$85-95

20 Texas; \$15-16 Louisiana; \$15.50-15 California

Brewers bulk.)

sack jumbo \$6-8, medium \$6, Red Globe Type 25-pound sack jumbo mostly \$6, medium mostly 4. Unofficial prices for Monday Oct. 5, Organic Yellow Hybrid 50-pound jumbo sack 12-14, 40-pound carton jumbo \$11.50-14.50, 16 3-pound mesh sacks medium \$13.25-16.50.

IDAHO AND MALHEUR COUNTY OREGON---Ship ments 303-277*-287---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading slow. Prices Yellow super colossal, colossal, White large, and Red large lower, others generally unchanged. Yellow Spanish Hybrid U.S. One 50pound sack super colossal mostly \$9-10, colossal \$6-7, jumbo mostly \$5.50, medium \$5-5.50, White Type U.S One large \$7-8, medium \$7-8, Red Globe Type U.S. One 25-pound sacks large \$7-8, medium \$5-6.

PEPPERS, BELL TYPE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIF.---Shipments 104-

117-113---Movement expected about the same. Trading Green active, Red moderate. Prices Green higher, Red slightly lower. 1 1/9 bushel cartons Green jumbo mostly \$9.35-10, extra large mostly \$9.95-11, large \$9-10.35 medium mostly \$8-9, irregular size fair quality mostly \$7-7.50. Red irregular size fair quality mostly \$6.95-7.50, 15 pound cartons Red extra large and large mostly \$6.85-7.50. Quality Red variable, Green generally good. **POTATOES**

UPPER VALLEY, TWIN FALLS, BURLEY DISTRICT, IDAHO---Shipments 590*-565*-600---Movement expected to decrease slightly. The growing area received rain/snow Sunday and Monday (Oct. 4-5) which curtailed harvest.

Trading baled fairly active, cartons moderate. Prices Burbank cartons generally unchanged, others lower. Russet no quote Texas: no quote Louisiana: \$10 California Domestic milled rice price quotes were steady to lower in South and in California this week. Byproducts

33; parboiled quotes were steady, quoted mostly at \$27.50-28; second heads were steady to \$1 lower, quoted mostly at \$17.50-18; brewers were steady to \$1 lower, quoted mostly at \$15-17. Rice byproducts: Offers for rice bran were steady to \$10 higher, mostly steady to \$3 higher; millfeed was steady in a lightly tested trade; hulls were steady to \$2 higher in a lightly tested

In California, medium grain milled rice prices were steady to \$2 lower, quoted mostly at \$43.50-44; short grain prices were steady to \$2 lower, quoted mostly at \$44.50-45; second heads were \$2-6 lower; brewers

Louisiana: \$75 California. Rice millfeed \$35 Arkansas: \$30 Texas; \$28-32 Louisiana. Rice hulls \$8-12 Arkansas;

CATTLE, from Page 14 NORTHWEST DIRECT CATTLE (USDA Market News)

Moses Lake, Wash. Oct. 2 This week Last year

4,250 3,450 1,900 Compared to last week's close, feeder cattle \$2-3 lower. Trade slow to moderate with light to moderate demand as most buyers are avoiding buying unweaned calves at this time. The feeder supply included 40 percent steers and 60 percent heifers. Near 92 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs. Prices are FOB weighing point with a 1-4 percent shrink or equivalent and with

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB Prices: 600 lbs. \$95 calves Idaho; 650 lbs. \$85 fleshy calves Oregon; 850-900 lbs. \$89 Washington. Future Delivery FOB Prices: 650-700 lbs. \$100-102.50 calves for November Ore-

a 5-10 cent slide on calves and a 3-6 cent slide

on yearlings. Delivered prices include freight,

commissions and other expenses.

er in California. In the South, long grain rice price quotes were steady to \$1.50 lower, quoted mostly at \$22-24; medium grain prices were steady to \$5 lower, quoted mostly at \$31.50-

were steady to higher in the South and steady to low-

were 50 cents to \$3 lower. Rice bran was \$13 lower, hulls were \$3 lower.

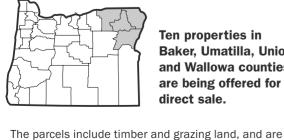
gon-Washington early. Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB Prices: 500-550 lbs. \$93 Idaho; 600-650 lbs. \$81 fleshy Oregon; 800-850 lbs. \$80-87.50 Washington-Oregon: 900-950 lbs. \$86 Idaho. Large 1-2: 1000-1050 lbs. \$82 Idaho. Current Delivered Prices: 600-650 lbs. \$91 calves Oregon; Future Delivery FOB Prices: 550-600 lbs. \$92-92.50 for November Washington-Oregon; 600-650 lbs. \$94-96.50 calves for Novem-

ber Washington **5 AREA WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGE DIRECT SLAUGHTER CATTLE** (Texas/Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Iowa/Minnesota) Oct. 5

This week Last year 139,357 131,444 102.628

Steers, live basis: 35-65 percent choice 1,155-1,450 lbs. \$80-84 Heifers, live basis: 35-65 percent choice 1,000-1,410 lbs. \$81-83. Steers, dressed basis: 35-65 percent choice 803-950 lbs. \$124-131. Heifers, dressed basis: 35-65 percent choice 706-950 lbs. \$123-131.

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Proceeds from land sales are reinvested to produce income for Oregon's K-12

Legal-41-2-6/#4

Burbank U.S. One 2-inch or 4-ounce minimum baled 5 10pound film bags non size A mostly \$3.50-4, 50-pound cartons 40-100s mostly \$7-7.50. Russet Norkotah U.S. One 2-inch or 4-ounce minimum baled 5 10-pound film bags non size A mostly \$3.50-4, 50-pound cartons 40-100s \$6 As of week ending Oct. 3, 70 count Norkotah are about \$7.50 per carton under the same Time last year and \$2.50 per carton under the 5-year average price. Shipments for the month of September were 2.371.000 cwt. a twenty percent increase from September 2008 shipments of

COLUMBIA BASIN WASH, AND UMATILLA BASIN ORE.---Shipments 288-255-189 (includes export of 37-44*-28)---Movement expected to remain about the same as growers continue putting potatoes in storage. Trading slow. Prices slightly lower, Russet Norkotah U.S. One 2inch or 4-ounce minimum baled 5 10-pound film bags non size Amostly \$4-4.50.50-pound cartons 40-50s mostly \$6, 60-80s mostly \$6-6.50, 90-100s mostly \$7. Shipments for the month of September were 1,176,000 cwt, a seventeen percent decrease from September 2008 shipments of 1.412.000 cwt. *revised.

NORTHWESTERN WASHINGTON---Shipments 20-

40-69---Movement expected to remain about the same.

Trading fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. Round

Red U.S. One 50-pound carton size A mostly \$13-14,

size B mostly 18, Creamers mostly \$32-34; Long White

U.S. One 50-pound carton size A \$18, size B mostly \$12,

Creamers mostly \$32-34; Yellow Type U.S. One 50-pound

carton size A mostly \$18, size B mostly \$12-14, Cream-

ers mostly \$32-34. Shipments for the month of Septem

ber were 15,000 cwt, a slight increase from September 2008 shipments of 14,000 cwt. TOMATOES CENTRAL DISTRICT, CALIF.---Shipments 244-189-

225---Movement expected about the same. Trading early slow, late fairly active. Prices extra large higher, others generally unchanged, 25 pound cartons loose Mature Greens extra large mostly 7.95, large and medium \$6.95. Quality generally good. Fruit **APPLES**

YAKIMA VALLEY AND WENATCHEE DISTRICT

WASHINGTON---2009 CROP Shipments 496-662-854

(includes exports 132-144-198)---Movement expected

to increase. Trading active. Prices Red and Golden De

Golden Delicious 72-88s mostly \$18, 100s mostly \$16, 113-

125s \$14-16. Gala 72s, \$20-22, 80s \$20, 88s \$18-20,

licious 72-100s slightly lower, others generally unchanged. Washington Extra Fancy carton tray pack Red Delicious 72-88s mostly 18, 100s 18, 113s \$17-18, 125s \$16-18.

100s \$16, 113-125s \$14-16. Quality generally good. Harvest in full swing. CANTALOUPES SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY, CALIF .-- Shipments 474-382-296---Movement expected to decrease seasonally. Trading early fairly active, late active, Prices higher, 1/2

cartons 9-12s mostly \$8.45-9.50, 15s mostly \$8.45-8.50. Quality generally good. GRAPES, TABLE SAN JOAQUIN DISTRICT, CALIF.---Shipments 148tive. Prices generally unchanged. 19 pound containers bagged Black Seedless large mostly 16.10; Red Globe large \$14.10-15.10; Crimson Seedless large mostly \$16.10, medium \$14.10-15.10. 16 pound containers bagged Thompson Seedless large \$18.10-20.10. Extra services included.

118-145---Movement expected to decrease. Trading ac

YAKIMA VALLEY AND WENATCHEE DISTRICT WASHINGTON---Shipments 129-168-172 (includes ex-

ports 67-74-72)---Movement expected to increase slight ly. Trading fairly active. Prices generally unchanged. 4/5 bushel cartons wrapped U.S. One Bartlett 70-80s \$20 22, 90s mostly \$20, 100s \$16-18, 110s \$14-16, 120s \$12 14, 135s \$11-13. D'Anjou 70-90s \$22-24, 100s \$20-22 110s \$18-20, 120s \$16-18, 135s \$14-16, Quality gener PLUMS AND PRUNES

ly \$17.10, 50-55 size mostly \$15.10. RASPBERRIES SALINAS-WATSONVILLE DISTRICT, CALIF.---Shipments 21-19-16---Movement expected to remain about the same. Trading very active. Prices higher. Flats 12 6-ounce cups with lids Red \$16-18, ORGANIC: Flats 12

6-ounce cups with lids Red \$16-18. Includes palletize

ing and cooling. Wide range in quality

PEARS

CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VAL-LEY DISTRICT, CALIF .--- Shipments 75-48-35--- Movement expected to decrease. Trading moderate. Prices lower, 28 pound cartons loose Autumn Beaut 20 size \$17.10-19.10, 30-35 size mostly \$18.10, 40-45 size most-

45-55 lbs. 55-65 lbs. 65-75 lbs.

Legal U.S. Postal Service STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION (Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

TITLE OF PUBLICATION: CAPITAL PRESS

CATION NO. 07403

DATE OF FILING: September 28, 2009 FREQUENCY OF ISSUE: Weekly

Melissa Norton, Eugene, OR

NO. OF ISSUES PUBLISHED ANNUALLY: 52 ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: \$49.

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF KNOWN OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: P.O. Box 2048, Salem OR 97308-2048

COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF HEADQUARTERS OF GENERAL BUSINESS OFFICE OF PUBLISHER: P.O. Box 2048, Salem OR 97308-2048 FULL NAMES AND COMPLETE MAILING ADDRESS OF PUBLISHER, EDITOR AND MANAGING

PUBLISHER: Mike O'Brien, P.O. Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048 EDITOR: Joe Beach, PO Box 2048, Salem, OR 97308-2048 MANAGING EDITOR: Carl Sampson, P.O. Box 2048, Salem OR 97308-2048

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Press Publishing Company, a subsidiary of East Oregonian Publishing Company, P.O. Box 2048, Salem Oregon 97308-2048 Kathryn B. Brown, Pendleton, OR Michael A. Forrester, Salem, OR

Harrison Forrester, Yosemite, CA Susan Forrester, Seoul, South Korea KNOWN BONDHOLDERS, MORTGAGEES, AND OTHER SECURITY HOLDERS OWNING OR HOLDING 1 PERCENT OR MORE OF TOTAL AMOUNT OF BONDS, MORTGAGES OR OTHER SECURITIES: U.S. Bank, P.O. Box 909, Pendleton, OR 97801; Bank

of the Pacific, 1007 Pacific Ave. N., Long Beach, WA 98631; Sterling Savings Bank, 205 W. Main St., Enterprise, OR 97828 PUBLICATION TITLE: Capital Press ISSUE DATE FOR CIRCULATION DATA BELOW: September 25, 2009

Stephen A. Forrester Trustee of Forrester Penner Family Trust, Astoria, OR

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Research/Life

Depressed production alarms scientists

Researchers publish plea for increased farm-oriented R and D

By TIM HEARDEN Capital Press

The growth of the world's agricultural productivity will continue to wane unless more resources are put into research and development, a trio of researchers has concluded.

In a paper in the journal Science, researchers Julian Alston of the University of California-Davis and Philip Pardey and Jason Beddow of the University of Minnesota note a decline in the growth rate of major food crops such as corn, rice, wheat and soy-

They blame a number of factors for this decline, including climate change, land degradation, government policies, higher input costs and shifts to less-productive crops

But a lack of adequate public and private investment in research, along with a shift in research emphasis, are major culprits for the lack of growth, said Alston, an agricultural economist

"One of the subtle and nasty consequences of slower productivity growth is that ... people are still going to want to eat, and they'll cut down rainforests faster" to create more farmland rather than becoming more efficient with the land they have, Alston said in an interview.

"With the climate change happening, we're going to have to do more farm-oriented R and D just to adapt to deal with changes in weather patterns to maintain productivity," he said.

The scientists' findings resulted from a study funded by the universities of California and Minnesota, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Giannini Foundation of Agricultural Economics and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Their solution is to urge the U.S. government and other nations, as well as the private sector, to invest more in farm productivity research — a solution Alston realizes could be a tough sell amid a recession and tight bud-

"I'm hopeful that the government

will recognize it's a good idea," he said. "What we try to do is ... share just what a good investment it is. It's an astonishingly good investment of public money.

One idea, he said, is for governments to adopt programs similar to one in Australia, where the government matches dollar-for-dollar contributions to checkoff-type producer levies for research.

In the U.S., some research and development dollars for agriculture has been redirected from productivity toward food safety and quality as well as for medical, energy and industrial uses, the researchers say.

Alston has no quarrel with those studies, but he said productivity research has maintained yields as new

Online

To read the scientists' report, "Agricultural Research, Productivity, and Food Prices in the Long Run" in the September issue of the journal Science, visit www.sciencemag.org.

pests, diseases and other environmental problems have arisen. This research has also resulted in more abundant supplies of food at more affordable prices, which reduce pressure on natural resources.

"It's connected in various ways," Alston said. "Sure, some of what we do in farm productivity has clear implications for food safety and quality and other implications."

English-English dictionary needed

recently invited a French college professor as guest lecturer for part of the threehour class on writing I teach to 21 students each week.

His subject was not French, nor did he speak in French, except for an occasional word. His talk was appropriate because he spoke on the English written word.

That, in itself would not be unusual since most of my students write in English.

But professor Marcel Sarde explained he spoke British English. He had interned, however, at the University of Washington, where he discovered Americans speak a different English. His talk was comparing the two common languages separated by an ocean.

It was Oscar Wilde who wrote in 1887, "We have really everything in common with America nowadays except, of course, language." Marcel set about proving that.

Let's just look at English through the eyes of the Eng-

Take food, for instance. An eggplant is an aubergine. A sausage is a banger. Sausage and mashed potatoes are bangers and mash. A hamburger-type bun is a bap. A cookie is a bis-

A dish of cold meat fried with cabbage and potatoes is a bubble and squeak. French fries are chips, but potato chips are crisps. Zucchini is a courgette. Graham crackers are digestives. A rutabaga is a swede. A pasty is a meat pie. Dessert is called afters.

To the British, all of that is nosh, which translates to "food to eat."

Our differences, Marcel explained, are more than in the food department. A ballpoint pen over there is a biro. A policeman is a bobby. The hood of an automobile is a bonnet, and the car's trunk is a boot. Suspenders are braces. Reflectors in the roadway are cat's eyes. A drugstore is a chemist shop. A mobile home is a caravan.

If all this that I have said so far is excellent, in the British Isles it would be topping. But don't ask for a washcloth at

The View From Here Bill Duncan



the hotel, because it is a face flannel. If you are seeking a restroom, you had better ask for the facilities or the loo. And if you are looking for a hardware store, you'd better inquire about the ironmonger.

Not only do the Brits drive on the wrong side of the road, but they have colorful names for their roadways. A four-lane divided highway is a dual carriageway. Yield signs will say give way. A crosswalk is a zebra crossing.

Walkways alongside a river or a canal are towpaths. If you are asked to make a check mark on a document, you will be expected to "tick it." A flashlight is a torch. A can is a tin. Rubber boots are wellies. If you talk too much, you will be accused of nattering on. You will probably be told to put a sock on it, or in our language,

If you cut yourself, don't ask for a Band-Aid, but seek a plaster. And if you want your lunch to go, you better tell the waiter you want a take-away.

Agatha Christie's novels taught me that a garage sale in England is a jumble. And if you need a strip of scotch tape, you best ask for sellotape.

On the last voyage of the Queen Mary, my dining room steward told me I could order anything on the Queen Mary and they would supply it. I ordered a Dr Pepper. After some puzzlement, he wanted to know if that was a medicinal drink. Also on that voyage I learned that a thumbtack is a drawing pin to the English. When I told my room steward that was a funny name for thumbtack, his polite reply was, "Sir, we have been speaking the language longer than Americans.

Touché, cousin. We just don't speak the same language.

Bill Duncan can be reached by writing in American English to P.O. Box 812, Roseburg, OR

Synthetic molecule tailors traits

Company expects market will accept DNA technique

Bv MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Press

Regulatory and legal hurdles can hinder the introduction of technologically enhanced crops, but one trait developer sees those obstacles as an advantage.

Cibus Global, an international company with labs in San Diego, Calif., aims to bypass the controversies surrounding biotechnology by altering plant genetics without actually inserting genes from other organisms.

Because the resulting crops aren't "transgenic," Cibus can avoid the expensive bureaucratic requirements and potential litigation that confront genetically modified organisms, said David Voss, vice president of commercial development for the firm.

"That is one of the big selling points for our technolo-' Voss said.

By circumventing such barriers, Cibus expects to drastically reduce the cost of bringing new products to market compared with major biotech developers, he said.

Seed companies that license the traits could also extend their reach into industries and countries that have resisted genetically modified technology, Voss said.
"We can only do what na-

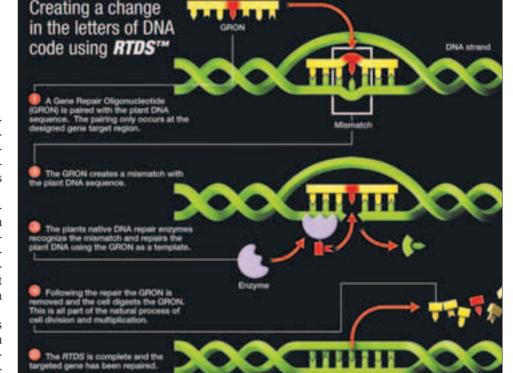
ture can do," he said.

The firm's proprietary technology — the Rapid Trait Development System — relies on a plant's internal process of repairing DNA, the genetic code that determines inherited traits.

Cibus uses a synthetic molecule, known as an oligonucleotide, to bond with a specific part of the plant's DNA, resulting in mismatch of genetic sequences.

When enzymes within the plant's cell repair the mismatched DNA, they use the oligonucleotide as a model for the right configuration.

The synthetic molecule disintegrates after the repair, but the genetic sequence itself re-



Courtesy of Cibus Global

mains altered.

The technique zeroes in on specific portions of DNA, providing Cibus with control over the exact traits it wants to

Basically, researchers convince the plant to make a gene correction within a targeted area. They're able to isolate that area thanks to an understanding of its total genetic

map, or genome.
"We're a technology that follows right behind the genomic revolution," Voss said, referring to the scientific decoding of human, animal and plant genomes.

"We have a tool that can be used to make those sequence changes without the use of foreign DNA," he said.

Gene reconfigurations regularly occur in organisms, but in the past century, scientists have used radiation and chemicals to prompt such mutations.

Such mutations were random, but Cibus modifies the DNA with a set purpose.

The process falls under the definition of mutagenesis rather than genetic modification — so it isn't under the regulatory purview of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service for transgenics, Voss said.

The company also expects Canada and the European Union to exempt its proprietary traits from regulations that govern genetically modified organisms, he said.

Recently, a major global

pesticide manufacturer, Makhteshim-Agan, agreed to invest \$37 million with Cibus to develop proprietary traits in five crops with an eye toward the European market.

Voss said details about the exact crops and traits could not yet be disclosed, but herbicide tolerance and disease resistance were likely to play a role. Improving crop suitability for bioenergy production is another possibility, he said.

As part of a separate agreement, Makhteshim-Agan also has the option to buy of 50.1 percent of Cibus shares over several years. Financial details of that deal were not disclosed. Cibus has previously en-

tered into an agreement with the BASF chemical company to develop canola that can tolerate the pesticide Clearfield. The firm is paid for trait development as well as salesbased royalties, Voss said.

The Center for Food Safety, an opponent of genetically modified crops, is skeptical of the alliance between Cibus and pesticide manufacturers, said Bill Breese, science policy analyst for the group.

Manufacturers are interested in herbicide-resistant crops because the seeds create a new source of revenue and boost demand for the chemicals themselves, Breese said.

"That's a double benefit to the company, but not for the environment," he said. "We were promised these new technologies would free us from pesticides, but it's taken us in the opposite direction.'

Breese said herbicide-tol-

erant traits increase overall pesticide use and chemical residues on crops. As for the genetic-repair

process employed by Cibus, the Center for Food Safety hasn't studied it closely because the crops haven't yet been introduced to the market, he said.

"We'll take a closer look at it," Breese said.

The potential for Cibus traits outside conventional agriculture is unclear.

Voss said nothing would technically prevent the crops from being grown by organic farmers, since the genetic changes occur as part of a regular plant process.

Even if the crops aren't transgenic, the firm's technique would probably be viewed with caution among organic growers and certification groups, said David De-Cou, executive director of the Organic Materials Review Institute.

The process manipulates the DNA repair process, forcing it to reconfigure, which would likely cause alarm within the organic industry, De-

"My guess is that most certifiers would say this is too close to genetic modification," he said.

"It would not go over easy would be my guess."



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October 15th, 2009

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in next week's Capital Press

- Mitch Lies reports on a study that shows environmental lawsuits are costing taxpayers billions of dollars.
- Carol Dumas tells the story of an Idaho farmer whose trip to the Amazon inspired him to breed exotic birds.
- Columnist Bill Duncan opines on -- well, we don't know yet, so you'll have to wait and read it.



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Research Center

Virus strikes Mich. blueberry center

University will have to destroy plants used in valuable research

DETROIT (AP) — The bloom could be off Michigan's \$124 millionper-year blueberry industry after two destructive viruses infected bushes in three locations.

Particularly upsetting to scientists is where one of the outbreaks occurred - Michigan State University's agricultural research station in southwestern Michigan. An outbreak of blueberry shock is forcing scientists to destroy plants that represent two decades and millions of dollars of research.

It will take years for new plants to mature so research can resume, said Annemiek Schilder, an associate professor of plant pathology and blueberry researcher. Still, she said, "We can't risk having that spread its way through Michigan's blueberry industry." Blueberry shock is believed to have

started in the Pacific Northwest and is spread by bees carrying infected pollen. The virus causes sudden death to flowers and leaves, although new ones

Plants remain infected, but sometimes return to full productivity in a few years.

Blueberry scorch — found on two southwestern Michigan farms — is common on both North American coasts. It's spread by aphids and has symptoms similar to blueberry shock. Some infected bushes die, while others appear normal.

Unlike fungus infections, the viruses have no known treatments.

So far, there's no sign of the diseases spread beyond those three spots, but the Michigan Department of Agriculture says the risk to the state's 19,000 acres of blueberries remains.

Michigan is the nation's No. 1 producer of blueberries, with 110 million pounds harvested last year. New Jersey was second at 42 million pounds. Nationwide, production totaled 407 million pounds.

Totals for this year aren't in yet, but industry groups and growers say Michigan had a bumper crop. Nationally, production is expected to be up as well, according to the North American Blueberry Council.

Blueberry shock spreads only in



Blueberry shock is believed to have started in the Pacific Northwest and is spread by bees carrying infected pollen. The virus causes sudden death to flowers and leaves, although new ones can grow.

the spring when bees pollinate bushes' blooms. Between now and then, Michigan State scientists are undertaking a crash study of the disease to learn as much as possible before they have to destroy their plants to prevent the virus from spreading.

They will look at the effect of winter dormancy on the infection, monitor the presence of the virus in buds and establish testing protocols, Schilder said. Down the road, their work may help commercial growers struggling with infections.

But the losses are great for the researchers working at the Trevor Nichols Research Complex, about four miles from Lake Michigan in Saugatuck Township in the midst of southwestern Michigan's blueberry country. The four acres of blueberries there have been used since the early 1990s for research on diseases and pests affecting the fruit. Scientists at the station have looked at topics ranging from pesticide residue to bee pollination, fruit funguses and insect infestation.

Schilder's own work at Michigan State dates back 11 years. The university could try to lease land from blueberry farmers to continue its research, but once the station's blueberry bushes are destroyed, no work will be done there for four or five years, she said.

It's unclear how the university's plants got the disease. But Schilder said if any good comes from the outbreaks, it will be in raising growers' awareness of the need to obey a quarantine on untested blueberry plants

Online

Blueberry shock: www.blueberries.msu.edu/shock.htm Blueberry scorch: www.blueberries.msu.edu/scorch.htm North American Blueberry Council: www.blueberry.org

from Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and other infected areas.

The Michigan Department of Agriculture is working to track down the sources and any possible spread of the two diseases, said department spokeswoman Jennifer Holton.

"It's like plant health CSI," Holton said. "We're going to figure out how it got into the state and where it spread."

Conservation group plans Utah climate research hub

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) -A sprawling cattle ranch in the dramatic canyonlands of southern Utah could play a key role in understanding the effects of climate change around the West.

The Nature Conservancy hopes to break ground next year on the Canyonlands Research Center, just east of Canyonlands National Park.

The center is intended to serve as a hub for scientists studying climate change and management of public lands on the Colorado Plateau.

The station is ideally located in Utah, which is expected to warm more dramatically than many other states, according to climate predictions, said Barry Baker, a Moab-based climate scientist for the conservancy.

"It's obvious we're seeing changes," he said. "What we want to do there is investigate how we can help land management adapt."

The Nature Conservancy paid \$4.6 million for the 5,200-acre Dugout Ranch in 1997. The ranch, which borders vast tracts of public land, sits among steep sandstone cliffs, talus slopes and scatterings of ancient rock art that lead to a Canyonlands area known as The Needles.

The ranch is well-situated to establish a research station to mark changes due to warming climate and determine if landuse policies that govern grazing, recreation and other activities need to be altered, supporters said.

Scientists have said that under warming conditions, the area could face increasing drought, faster snowmelt, more dust, less water availability in the Colorado River and a rise in some invasive species.

"The Canyonlands Research Center has the potential to generate some of the world's most important science on the interactions of climate change and land use," said Joel Tuhy, director of science for the conservancy's Utah chapter.

The center would be a partnership of the conservancy, Utah State University, four federal agencies, the state of Utah and Indian Creek Cattle Co.

Jeff Troutman, chief of Resources at Canyonlands National Park, said scientists in the area have been talking for more than a decade about a joint station where researches could gather, work and provide information.

"The fact that we're at a higher altitude gives us some early indications of what might happen around us," Troutman said.

The Nature Conservancy is also planning an assessment of plants and animals in Utah deemed the most vulnerable to climate change.

Online

Study envisions \$8B regional bioscience impact

Mississippi Delta plan would employ ag land, industrial capacity

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A study by a Memphis nonprofit group proposes major changes in the way agricultural land in the Delta is used to create a bioeconomy worth \$8 billion with more than 25,000 jobs in the next decade.

The study commissioned by Memphis Bioworks Foundation was released in late August. It says 36 million acres in the Mississippi Delta now producing cotton and trees could be converted to producing plants that could be turned into biofuels or plas-

"This is recognized as one of the most productive farmlands in the country," said Steve Bares, executive director of the Bioworks Foun-

He said the agricultural changes

Online

www.agbioworks.com

Memphis Bioworks AgBio initiative:

proposed by the study wouldn't reduce food crops, which is one of the criticisms of corn-based ethanol pro-

As petroleum-based products are replaced with plant-based ones, a bioeconomy could produce 50,000 jobs in the region in the next 20 years, the study conducted by consulting firm Battelle Technology Partnership Practice concludes.

Besides biofuels and polymers for plastic products, alternative plants could be turned into lubricants or briquettes that can be used with coal to the study.

tered manufacturing sites that easily could be converted to process biobased materials.

The city already has one company producing bioproducts. PMC Biogenix Inc. transforms agricultural materials into cling wrap, said Peter Nelson, Ag-Bio co-coordinator for Memphis Bioworks.

'For Memphis, this study makes it clear that we have a dual role," Bares said. "One is to take advantage of our own underutilized industrial capacity, our strong business infrastructure and our unique agricultural assets and to develop them. The

Although the city has infrastruc-

Bares said Memphis not only is ture to help support the processing surrounded by millions of acres of end, a network needs to be estabfarmland but also has lots of shut- lished between farmers and manufacturers, Bares said.

Farmers also have to be persuaded to give alternative crops a try. Bioworks has created the 25Farmer Network, a partnership with the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, that matches farmers willing to try alternative crops with buyers.

"Each one of those we're developing a multiyear partnership with to build out the new supply chain," Nelson said.

The Memphis Bioworks Foundation was created in 2001 to foster bioscience research and business in the city. It has worked with public and private business and academic and government organizations on projects that include the University of bioscience ventures.

produce electricity. Agencies from second is to provide a regional ap-Tennessee-Baptist Research Park, a www.nature.org/wherewework/ Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi, proach that will build strong collabscience and engineering charter school northamerica/states/utah/ orations." Missouri and Tennessee helped fund and investment fund supporting new

Tending animals, range vital to respiratory investigation

SHERIDAN, Wyo. (AP) — For much of this summer, Rick Landeis office has bee in the Big Horn Mountains, where he sleeps in a simple cabin and works alone on horseback, surrounded by cattle.

An animal science instructor at Sheridan College and veteran rancher, Landeis is in the second year of a research project examining bovine respiratory disease in calves moved up on the mountain to graze.

The goal of the project is to learn specifically why some cattle contract the disease, while others develop antibodies even though they haven't been vaccinated.

"If the cow herd is managed properly, then perhaps the necessity of vaccinating calves before weaning might be questionable," Landeis said.

Bovine respiratory disease occurs primarily in calves and is the No. 1 killer of beef cattle in the United States, Landeis said. A complex of five virus-

"If the cow herd is managed properly, then perhaps the necessity of vaccinating calves before weaning might be questionable."

Rick Landeis

es, BRD infects calves' respiratory tracts, and they eventually develop pneumonia.

"It can be a big problem where some producers lose quite large amounts of calves," Landeis said. "I'd venture to guess that every substantial cattle producer has dealt with

While veterinarians recommend that producers vaccinate calves for BRD, Landeis said he has discovered that even among vaccinated herds,

cows continue to get sick. In 2008, Landeis began a two-year study with Bovi-Shield, a widely used vaccine donated by pharmaceutical giant Pfizer Inc. Using cattle owned by the Flitner Ranch in Shell, Landeis vaccinated one-third of the herd via injection, one-third by spraying the vaccine into the calves' nostrils and left one-third unvaccinated

Rancher spends summer studying cattle disease

Records were kept on sick cattle during the summer they grazed on a tract of land donated by the Purdy Ranch Foundation in the Big Horns above Buffalo.

Landeis wound up treating 10 sick calves in 2008, five from each vaccination group. None of the unvaccinated cattle developed BRD.

When blood samples of that group were sent to the state veterinary laboratory for analysis, Landeis was surprised by the results.

'These calves had never been vaccinated, yet they had antibodies for all these diseases. That was quite per-

plexing," he said. This year, Landeis is continuing the study in an attempt to learn exactly which viruses the cattle are de-

veloping antibodies to. None of the 280

cow/calf pairs he is managing on the

mountain was vaccinated for BRD

this summer, and blood samples were taken of all the cattle before they were placed on the mountain.

Though he's been watching carefully for signs of sickness, so far Landeis has not identified any cases of BRD in the herd.

"If they get sick, I'll have to rope the calf, take blood and a nasal swab, and get that to the state vet's lab in order to isolate which of the five viruses these animals are getting," he explained. A second part of Landeis' study

this summer involves measuring the effectiveness of "QuietWean" flaps, a plastic nose flap that allows the cow and calf to be near each other but doesn't allow the calf to nurse.

Typically, BRD is seen at weaning, because weaning can be stressful to the calf, and stress is a contributing factor to BRD, Landeis said.

'These QuietWean flaps claim to reduce stress by 25 percent," he said. 'We will have calves weaned the oldfashioned way and some with these straps. Then we'll measure which has

a higher mortality for BRD." The herd has been on the mountain since mid-July and will remain there until October under Landeis' watchful eye. He generally spends four nights at a time managing the herd, sleeping in a small cabin with no electricity or running water.

With the cool, wet weather the region has been experiencing this summer, Landeis said, he has worked in the rain on each of his last four trips. There's also no shortage of work he has to do by horseback.

"There's cattle to be sorted, fences to be repaired, and I place range minerals and salt out," he said. "One major part of the land endowment is that the range be managed well. "One important thing in range

management is keeping cattle scattered. There's certain places they always want to be, creek bottoms and riparian areas.'

A Wyoming native, Landeis grew up on ranches in Cody and coached the Sheridan College rodeo team until 2007, when he began to get busy with his animal science classes and research projects. Last summer, Landeis logged 600 hours on the mountain working on the project.

Growers take fresh look at peppermint

Crop acreage increases in Oregon, Washington, Idaho

By JOHN SCHMITZ For the Capital Press

The Northwest peppermint industry has changed dramatically in the past 10 or so years one of the many victims of the world-gone-flat theory.

The good news, however, is that it appears the worst may be over, says one industry official.

"It's holding its own, and, in fact, there's been an increase in acres in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, and prices have gone up," said Rocky Lundy, executive director of the Mint Industry Research Council.

MIRC is charged with improving quality and yields in U.S. mint fields.

As is the case with other Northwest crops, peppermint has suffered at the hands of cheap offshore production coupled with price-driven demand, Lundy said.

Hurt the most by all of this have been Oregon's Willamette Valley and the Madras area, where lower yields and/or the cost of production have put growers at a big disadvantage when competing with cheap peppermint oil from India and

Not only did Willamette Valley peppermint acreage shrink from a high of 27,000 acres in the late 1990s to around 5,500 acres three years ago, Central Oregon's peppermint crop, which hit a high of 13,000 acres around the time, has all but left the scene in favor of growing mint for tea leaves. However, both districts have been making a slight comeback, Lundy said.

The turnaround for peppermint oil began when prices for wheat fell and peppermint oil handlers, beginning with I.P. Callison and Sons, began adjusting the price they paid for contracted mint to reflect

the higher costs of inputs, Lundy said. "That (indexing) was a good thing for the mint industry.'

Lundy said he was more than a little concerned two years ago when oil and fertilizer prices shot up and the price of wheat and corn then attractive crop alternatives to peppermint — skyrocketed about the same time.

Input costs had risen so dramatically that growers were asking for \$30 a pound for their oil when typical contract prices were running around \$15, Lundy said.

The higher asked-for price was not met because handlers themselves were also conto their customers and end users weren't bending.

"A lot of growers got caught off guard. There were a lot of (peppermint) acres coming out," Lundy said. "I'm glad that's over with."

It's ironic that the main

competition for U.S. pepper-

mint oil (Mentha piperetta) is derived from a plant that doesn't even produce peppermint oil: Mentha arvensis. Grown mainly in India, M. arvensis produces an oil extremely high in menthol, which

quantities. M. arvensis oil is sold into

is actually an undesired com-

pound when present in large

minus a lot of its menthol, which has been crystallized out. It's the latter, called DMO or de-mentholated oil, that scientists blend with higherquality U.S. mint oils to proximate the flavor profile of 100 percent U.S. mint oils.

One facet of growing peppermint, like hops, that serves as a built-in limit switch is that because the crop is perennial in nature and more difficult to establish, growers are not as fast to rip it out, Lundy said.

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Adios, concert stage; hello, classroom

Enthusiasm for soil sciences now drives former music man

By JOHN SCHMITZ For the Capital Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. -When James Cassidy helped Information Society win a platinum record in 1988, it might have been the highwater mark of his life.

Actually, the bass guitarist on the million-selling album says he gets a bigger lift out of teaching soil science at Oregon State University.

Cassidy, a Minnesota native whose father was a pioneer top fuel dragster, was himself driven to music instead of racing, long before he began to wonder about the wonders hidden beneath his

"I was very disconnected from agriculture then," he

After becoming fluent on the banjo as a teenager, he was attracted to several different music genres: rock, pop, new wave and eventually hip-hop.

"At one time I played in four different bands at one talent show," he says.

But the type of hip-hop that made Cassidy and the Information Society famous was not something you'd expect to hear from an all-Anglo group. Instead, the band, which formed right after high school graduation, chose to specialize mostly in Latino hip-hop dance music.

After playing small, local gigs for several years, the group began touring regionally, seven men in one VW camper. On some occasions, they spent their nights in the nearest hayfield.

"We didn't expect much,"

he says. After disbanding and then reforming several times, the group, now typecast as a Latino hip-hop, freestyle band, began playing larger venues on the East Coast in the mid-

1980s. Cassidy was not prepared for what happened at the band's first gig in New York. "The first show we played was in a literally underground nightclub called the Devil's



John Schmitz/ For the Capital Press

Oregon State University soil science instructor James Cassidy with gold record he helped pop band Information Society win in 1988. A platinum album, awarded for 1 million sales, soon followed gold.

Nest, or El Nido Diablo. It was an all-Latin audience in

the south Bronx." What surprised the band were the hundreds of teens waiting to get into the club. and the near-pandemonium that broke out when they jostled to get good seats for the

show. Little did the band know that one of the songs they had cut earlier, a dance number called "Running," had become a huge hit with Latinos. "They were floored when they saw us — white kids from Minneapolis."

It was the breakout hit on their Warner Bros.-released

"Tommy Boy album" — "What's On Your Mind? (Pure Energy)" — that drove the album to coveted gold status 500,000 albums. A short time later, sales reached 1 million copies, and platinum

was awarded. "That song was huge," Cassidy said. "Everything just worked. It was on MTV, the No. 2 record on pop charts, the No. 1 dance record for

weeks.' All this while the band scored another achievement, one not often found in the pop music world: Except for a little pot here and there, it remained drug-free and virtually alcohol-free, Cassidy said. Another bit of trivia Information Society can lav claim to is that its third and last Warner Bros. album was historical in that it was the last vinyl album released by

that label. After touring the U.S. four times and playing once to 135,000 people in Rio de Janeiro ("For us that was a giant, crazy thing," Cassidy said), the band broke up again in the early 1990s.

Changing passions

It was about this time, when music was going



through one of its many metamorphoses, that Cassidy was called from the world of pop music to the earth.

At first he wanted to be a fish farmer, but he chucked that after moving from New York to Oregon and getting a degree in fisheries science from OSU in 1997.

It was his interest in water quality and how it is affected by soils that led him to an OSU master's degree in soil sciences.

Today, Cassidy, president of the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists, has an genuine reverence and enthusiasm for soil, and it shows in the way

"Good teaching is a performance," he said. "I'll get pretty intense and march around the room, shocking

(students) with truths." Cassidy said part of his job as a teacher is to break through the "media-trance" that many students are in today, a spell brought on by the avalanche of data streaming through the Information Age.

"I've participated in it in a very high level and know exactly (what is happening)."

Cassidy said he believes all human beings are living in a fantasyland, really "missing the boat" in how the world really works.

To him, the environment, and everything that it touches, is heavily influenced by the soil. "It's all dependent on basic resources, and soil is probably the most fundamental."

Cassidy and the original Information Society band still get together now and then for revival concerts.

Freelance writer John Schmitz is based in Salem. E-mail: johns6869@msn.com.

Idaho couple builds a business at a start-up farmers' market

Organic product line has grown to include some craft items

By BARBARA COYNER For the Capital Press

VIOLA, Idaho — In a business climate that taxes patience, Debi Robinson-Smith and Dave Smith have made a point of persevering.

When the two quit their day jobs to grow organic produce, they picked a newly emerging local farmers' market as their main sales outlet. For a time, progress was as fast-paced as watching grass grow. But now that Dale's Saturday Market in Potlatch draws steady crowds, Debi and Dave know their consistency at the market has paid

"We were committed for the long haul," Debi said, even when the weather was bad and bags of produce went unsold. "I wasn't really ever discouraged. We knew this would be an upward slog."

Marketing under Ravencroft Organic Products, the small farm's first presence was at a market at the Moscow Food Co-op, and it also distributed through community-supported agriculture operations. After trying out the Moscow Farmers' Market, Dave and Debi opted for the newly emerging Dale's Saturday Market, choosing to become an anchor ven-

While Dave is the main cultivator, Debi used her artistic talents to take care of most of the marketing. She created other products when the summer heat forced her inside, fashioning totebags, hats, soap and greeting cards to supplement market offerings.

Diversifying the product line to include some craft items



Barbara Coyner/For the Capital Press Debi Robinson-Smith harvests basil at Ravencroft Organic Produce in Viola, Idaho, in preparation for Dale's Saturday Market in nearby

has helped cultivate customers, Debi said.

Potlatch.

telling what we'll be able to sell," she says, acknowledg-"Sometimes there's no ing that many people in the

Online www.ravencroftfarm.com

area already have gardens. "Diversifying our product line not only helped us, but it helped the market, making it more interesting."

Debi said her totebags are made of vintage and recycled fabrics, contributing to the couple's goal of good stewardship. The line of soaps uses ingredients from the homestead, including basil, one of Ravencroft's main herbs.

Once the lush greens, herbs and other produce sprang up, so did the sales opportunities.

"We got our organic certification, but then let it lapse," Debi said. "There was just too much paperwork, making it just about impossible for small

farmers."

The couple works through "buy-local" and grower-certification channels adhering to organic principles.

Debi keeps her sights on getting the Ravencroft name out to the public. She works with other growers at the Potlatch market, noting that the growers have learned to work as a team. "We talk to the other ven-

dors and determine reasonable prices so we don't undercut each other," she said. "We want to provide good services and help each other out."

Debi reserves her highest praise for market operator Dale Rose. "Dale is some kind of hero, and he's done a lot for the market with his attractive site, enthusiasm and little petting zoo."

Barbara Coyner is a free-lance writer based in Princeton, Idaho. E-mail: barbcovner@gmail.com.

'It ain't just cows and plows anymore'

High school students take agricultural science to a new level

By DAVE FISHER For the Capital Press

TILLAMOOK, Ore. — "Going green" has become one of the more important issues of our time, addressing age-old environmental challenges.

Tillamook High School agricultural science students, under the guidance of instructor Max Sherman, have taken to the lab to come up with creative solutions.

Sherman, who grew up on a dairy farm near Canby, Ore., and is in his 10th year at Tillamook High, begins his classes with homework updates and announcements. From there, it's to the lab where the real work be-

"My goal," Sherman said of his 52-minute class periods, "is to get students in the lab as soon as possible because that's where they really excel."

With the new school year under way, Sherman and his students brainstorm ideas for individual and team projects. By spring, those efforts in the lab and in the field begin to bear

Among the student projects last year: utilizing whey powder, a byproduct of cheese production, for the production of ethanol; creating fuel pellets from methane-digested pulp; improving water quality of one of the most polluted streams on the Oregon coast; and studying the effects of catastrophic forest fires on hydrologic properties of Mazama ash soils in Southern Oregon forests.

"It's definitely not your traditional ag class," Sherman said. "We've gotten away from the typical test tube lab procedures and utilize industry-standard meters and probes. The accuracy of the results adds credibility to students' research.'

While the focus is on "green" projects, Sherman said, the more traditional aspects of his ag classes, such as tractor driving, animal husbandry and soil and crop science, are still an important part of the cur-



Dave Fisher/For the Capital Press

Tillamook High School students learn by doing in Max Sherman's agricultural sciences classes. From left are Brad Hamburger, Joel Hamburger, Nathan Atchison, Emily Oldenkamp, Olga Lane and instructor Sherman.

riculum. But, clearly, as Sherman said, "It ain't just cows and plows anymore."

In 2008, THS sophomore Hayden Bush went to the first-ever International Sustainable World Energy, Engineering and Environment Olympiad, returning with a bronze medal for creating biofuel from Scotch broom. Bush was among 1,000 high school students from 40 states and from 60 countries.

At the time, Sherman and Bush were a little intimidated by the competitive field. Many of the foreign students, Sherman said, were there with the complete backing of their gov-

Some of these kids work with the leading researchers from their countries," he said.

However, by the end of the competition, Sherman realized his students could compete and belonged on center stage. This spring four students attended the Olympiad. Sophomores Staci Sherer and Tory Callaway were cited for their efforts in the production of ethanol from whey powder; sophomore Joey Meyer, for making fuel pellets from methanedigested waste.

Of the 65 students enrolled in his agricultural science and technologies classes last year, Sherman said, about a third had an agricultural background having grown up on a farm, worked at the Tillamook County Creamery Association cheese factory or worked on someone else's farm.

Real-life challenges encountered on the farm are often the catalyst for students' projects. That was the case with Bush, Sherman said. His parents, who own a dairy farm, were faced with ever-increasing prices for feed, in particular corn, which was being used more and more in the production of biofuel, forcing them and fellow dairy farmers to pay a higher premium for a shorter supply. Bush looked at Scotch broom, a pesky invasive species in plentiful supply, and wondered why biofuel couldn't be created from it as well, which, in turn, led to his classroom project.

This October, 12 THS students and eight projects are headed to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, a significant increase over last year and the year before.

"A big part of the students' success is they're starting to be recognized by industry experts," Sherman said, "with some projects actually influencing policy making.'

In particular, he said, the U.S. Forest Service has taken note of students' efforts on the effects of catastrophic forest fires and management of old-growth forests.

Meanwhile, Bush's Scotch broom biofuel production experiment has run into a snag. The liquid produced has a tendency to gel, and Bush and Sherman await test results from Oregon State University to understand why — just one more challenge awaiting a solution in the ag science lab at Tillamook High.

Wool show visitor was no predator

ome wool shows are tougher than others. A couple of years back, my wife and I were manning a booth at a wool show. We noticed a man standing just inside the entry door.

He was over 6 feet tall and probably weighed 300 pounds plus change. He was built like a retired NFL lineman and dressed head to toe in black motorcycle gang leathers. As he stood by the entry, he was taking in the lay of the land.

Neither my wife nor I am quick to jump to conclusions about a person's appearance. However, by mutual consent, we watched a man who was massively out of place among delicate wool garments and fabrics. One of his legs weighed more than some of the ladies spinning wool nearby.

Slowly the man made his way around the room. He would stop at a booth, ask a few polite questions, then move on.

He had moved quietly through the whole show and ended up in front of our booth. The first words out of his mouth were a rumbling "Can I say 'Hi' to your dog?"

Sitting underneath our table was Tango, our lead stock dog. He's a full-blood Australian shepherd, a quiet dog that's the backbone of our canine helpers. Much to the dog's dismay, he was in town getting socialized. He doesn't like loud noises or surprises, and he doesn't much care about the rest of the human race.

The biker must have seen the dog's rear end sticking out from our side of the table. My wife and I were so surprised by the man's question that we were stammering our replies.

To our astonishment, the big man dropped to his knees and stuck his head underneath our table. He was face to face with Tango. From our side of the table I could see the dog's rear end stand up in surprise.

Between the **Fenceposts** Bing Bingham



Surreptitiously, I stood up in case I needed to do a quick surgical removal of a dog's teeth from the large man's face.

Neither of us is sure what happened underneath the table, but man and dog quickly assessed each other and decided they were the best of bud-

Slowly at first, Tango's stub tail wagged back and forth. Soon his entire rear end was shaking in canine joy.

I glanced at the other side of the table and saw the man's great leather clad butt was waggling with the same pleasure as the dog's. If the motorcyclist had had a tail, it would have been moving at subsonic speed also.

My wife and I shared a glance over top of our bouncing table while man and dog played underneath. We knew how close we had been to a

Reluctantly the buddies under the table separated, and the big man got to his feet in front of our booth.

"Thank you," said the man who loves dogs. "You've got a good one there."

"We know," we said, sagging with relief that everyone was in one piece. The large man headed for

the door, fired up his Harley and roared off to wherever he was going. Me, my wife and especial-

ly Tango were glad to get home that night. Bing Bingham is a writer, rancher and storyteller. His tail was wagging when he saw everybody

getting along. If you have a story

to pass along, contact him at

bing@bingbingham.com.

awarded the President's Choice Award by the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce. The award

People in agriculture

Deaths

• Lloyd Miles, a Fort Rock, Farm Bureau and Oregon Farm Bureau's Young Farmers and Ranchers group and sat on the FFA advisory committee, has died. He was 41.

• Ray Novotny, a longtime Malheur County, Ore., extension agent and advocate for agriculture, has died. He was 88.

Appointments

- Grady McMahan is the new district ranger for the Detroit Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest, in Western Oregon. Grady has 30 years of experience in the U.S. Forest Service.
- Cliff Ohmart has been appointed vice president of professional services at SureHarvest, a company that specializes in sustainable agriculture.
- Kristin Swenddal has been appointed manager of the Aquatic Resources Division of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The Aquatic Resources Division is responsible for policies, scientific research and resources to manage 2.6 million acres of stateowned aquatic lands. Swenddal has worked in the division since 2000 as an environmental planner, policy unit supervisor and as assistant division manager.
- Darin Cramer has been named manager of the Forest Practices Division of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The division enforces rules adopted by the state Forest Practices Board and assists small forest land owners. Cramer has worked for DNR since 2000, in the Aquatic Resources Division and the Forest Practices Division.

Honors

• The Capital Press has been recognized the newspaper's

longevity in the market, excellent coverage of the ag community and its community involve-Ore., rancher who served as ment. The award was presentpresident of the Lake County ed to Capital Press Publisher Mike O'Brien by Salem Area Chamber of Commerce President John Zielinski, owner of E-Z Orchards

• Healing Hooves LLC was

named the winner in the Natural Resources category of the Green Washington 2009 awards presented by Seattle Business Magazine. Healing Hooves has offered commercial vegetation management services since 2002, with goats and a border collie as the only employees.

• Larry Falk has received

this year's Pat Atteberry Award. Falk, of Albany, Ore., has served on the Linn-Benton Community College Agriculture/Horticulture Advisory Committee for 15 years, serving as advisory chairman in 2007. Falk is a forage sales representative and agronomist with Seed Research of Oregon in Corvallis.

ACROSS Bogus guarter

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(See answers in Class 760