

Subscribe to our weekly dairy or livestock email newsletter at [CapitalPress.com/newsletters](http://CapitalPress.com/newsletters)

## Dairy/Livestock

# Rendering plant planned for S. Idaho

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

A 15,000-square-foot rendering plant could process about 200 cattle a day if Jerome County commissioners approve rezoning of the proposed site and planning and zoning commissioners approve a special use permit.

The first step is to rezone the site from agricultural to heavy industrial, said Art Brown, Jerome County planning and zoning administrator. Applications for the re-

zoning and special use permit were submitted on Feb. 26. The project is proposed for just over 38 acres at 750 N. and U.S. Highway 30 on the north side of Jerome, he said.

The engineering consultant on the project, Matt Thompson, owner of AgTech, said the plant is proposed by Brandon Stokes and his two brothers, who have dairy and feedlot experience, in partnership with a businessman who owns a kill plant in Texas.

The operation is planned

in two phases. The first would be rendering animals to serve dairy and feedlot needs, with a capacity of 50 to 100 tons per day. The second would be recycling used oils, such as restaurant oils and grease, he said.

"We'd like to break ground this year," he said.

Land for the site is under a purchase agreement contingent on the county permitting process and permitting from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, he said.

The biggest concern is people thinking it's going to "stink up the neighborhood," but the plant will be built with the "latest and greatest new technology," he said.

"All gases are going to be contained and treated to make sure we're good neighbors," he said.

The rendering process essentially involves a big pressure cooker, using pressure and heat to stabilize the material. Moisture is removed as vapors. In the past, rendering

plants just vented those vapors into the air, he said.

With modern practices, the vapors are enclosed, captured and treated to remove odors, he said.

A hearing to consider the special use permit is scheduled for May 18. A special use permit can be approved contingent on rezoning the site. A meeting to consider the rezoning is scheduled for May 19, Brown said.

In a separate issue, an effort by Dale T. Smith & Sons Meat

Packing Co. of Draper, Utah, to build a processing plant in Jerome, announced in February of 2014, is on hold.

Thompson, engineering consultant on that project as well, said it's been hard to find affordable land for the plant.

In addition, the Smith company is considering the impact of Simplot's intention to partner on a new meatpacking plant in Kuna and a new slaughter plant planned by Allen Ward 7 Brothers Meats near Burley, he said.

## Judge tosses out ranchers' lawsuit against BLM

### Dispute centered on grazing, water rights

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

A lawsuit over grazing and water rights filed by Eastern Oregon ranchers against the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has been thrown out by a federal judge.

Last year, Jesse and Pamela White and the Eason Land Co. filed a complaint accusing the agency of violating a previous deal that provided them with increased grazing access in Malheur County in return for curtailed use of their water rights.

Reservoirs built by BLM in the 1960s impaired the plaintiffs' water rights, so the agency allowed them to release additional cattle onto grazing allotments in exchange.

The ranchers exercised

their water rights in 2006, which BLM interpreted as ending the deal.

The agency then reduced the plaintiffs' grazing levels and dismantled or retrofitted the BLM reservoirs to restore their water rights, but the lawsuit argued the changes were insufficient.

The complaint demanded that BLM either return grazing to previous levels or finish the reservoir alterations, but a federal judge has found that the agency was capable of satisfying the plaintiffs' water rights and dismissed the case.

U.S. District Judge Anna Brown in Pendleton dismissed the lawsuit, affirming the earlier findings of U.S. Magistrate Judge Patricia Sullivan.

## U.S. cheese prices remain strong

By LEE MIELKE  
For the Capital Press

Dairy traders had to weigh last week's March Milk Production and March Cold Storage reports in view of current demand. The cash Cheddar blocks ended the week at \$1.61 per pound, the highest level since Dec. 22, 2014, up 3 1/2-cents on the week, ending two weeks of small declines, but still 60 cents below a year ago when they dropped 7 cents to \$2.21. They were unchanged both Monday and Tuesday.

The barrels closed Friday at \$1.62, down a half-cent on the week after reaching the highest level they've seen since Dec. 1, 2014, ending four weeks of gain, and 56 cents below a year ago. The barrels were also unchanged Monday but inched down a quarter-cent Tuesday, to \$1.6175. The spread is still at an inverted three-quarter cents, a spread that normally runs 3-5 cents

below the blocks. Seven cars of block traded hands last week at the CME and only one of barrel.

Butter had a good week, finishing at \$1.83 per pound, up 2 1/4-cents on the week but still 8 cents below a year ago. Nothing sold all week in the spot market. The spot jumped 2 cents Monday and gained another penny Tuesday, hitting \$1.86 per pound, highest spot price since Dec. 12, 2014.

Cash Grade A nonfat dry milk even saw a little strength last week, closing at 93 cents per pound, up a half-cent on the week but a whopping 92 3/4-cents below a year ago and the lowest spot level since August, 2009. Seven cars traded hands last week at the CME. The powder was unchanged Monday and Tuesday.

### Dairy Markets

Lee Mielke



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Kyrh Turner of Pullman, Wash., waits in line to weigh a steer in at the Junior Livestock Show of Spokane in May 2014. Youth around the Eastern Washington region hope to sell animals they raise at the show. State funding that helps students receive a premium for their animals is in question for next year, says manager Lynn Cotter.

## State funding in question for Spokane Junior Livestock Show

### Loss would mean more fundraising, lower premiums

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

State funding may not be available next year to pay premiums to youth for the animals they raise to sell at the Junior Livestock Show of Spokane, says show manager Lynn Cotter.

The show is May 5-9 at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center. Cotter expects roughly 500 exhibitors, consistent with last year's numbers, and 600 animals, up from 500 last year.

The show helps youth learn to raise and market their animals.

Last year, the show received about \$60,000 from state fair funds. This year, funds are down by about 3 percent, or roughly \$1,800.

Legislators have indicated that there would be no fair funding next year in the state budget, Cotter said. About two months ago, there was enough criticism that the legislators are considering leaving it in, but "funding is very in question," Cotter said. The show runs with a \$500,000 budget. The state funding pays for facilities and premiums to students over the prices they receive for the animals they raise



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

Caleb Singer and Max Greenwalt of Odessa, Wash., wait to weigh their at the Junior Livestock Show of Spokane in May 2014.

and sell at the show.

The state mandates that at least half of the funding it provides the show must go back in premiums to the youth. The show pays about \$35,000 in premiums to youth, Cotter said.

"Without that funding, we'd have to scrape deep to

provide any type of premium and just keep scraping," Cotter said. "We'd be looking at more fundraising than we even do now."

Prices have remained high this year, so the youth should be able to get a good return on their investment in raising their animal. Cotter said. The

### Online

<http://juniorshow.org/>

livestock show recommends pre-selling, in which youth contact prospective buyers beforehand, such as friends, relatives, grandparents or parents' co-workers.

There will be more regional fifth-grade students in attendance for the two-day educational farm fair. Last year, there were roughly 750 students, and more than a thousand are scheduled to participate this year, Cotter said.

The show is also moving from a two-day livestock sale to a one-day sale May 9 due to reduced animal numbers in recent years.

Cotter hopes for roughly 1,200 attendees and encourages attendees to buy the youths' livestock.

"They're our future farmers and producers of our meats and grains," Cotter said. "We need to support these kids and keep them going in something they're passionate about."

### National Dairy Producers Organization, Inc.

## Producer's Voice



### WANT A PROFITABLE PRICE?

Dairy farms will receive a profitable price for their milk IF they balance the supply of milk with profitable demand. Dairy farmer-owned processing co-ops claim to control 80% of this nation's milk supply.

What are you waiting for dairy farmer? Manage your price by managing your milk by managing your co-ops.

How? U.S. made milk will be balanced with profitable demand if all co-ops are directed to implement a production reduction plan, at times, when class III futures dip below \$20/CWT, and marshal the plan with a milk check assessment for overproduction that is determined to be the cause of a milk price drop.

It is time for dairy farmer owners to take control of their processing co-ops and demand that co-ops management implement a business plan that pays a profitable price for their milk.

What are you waiting for dairy farmer?

Manage your price by managing your milk by managing your co-ops.

To learn more go to: [www.NationalDairyProducersOrganization.com](http://www.NationalDairyProducersOrganization.com) or call (949) 375-4450

### Tuesday National Calls 8PM East - 5PM West

Live Calls: (712) 775-7035

Recorded Calls: (712) 775-7039

Pin: 330090#

**GOT MILKERS?**  
Celebrate June Dairy Month  
in Capital Press' 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Dairy Industry Special Section  
June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Our annual Dairy Special Section spotlights dairy operations and operators in California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. It features an in depth look at the situations and successes - needs and concerns of this dynamic industry.

To reach our print and online readers, contact your sales representative or call 1-800-882-6789.

Ad space reservation is Friday, May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Capital Press  
The West's Ag Weekly

PO Box 2048 • Salem, OR 97308

(503) 364-4798

(800) 882-6789

Fax: (503) 364-2692 or (503) 370-4383

[www.capitalpress.com](http://www.capitalpress.com)