

Open house showcases \$19 million fertilizer facility

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

Online
<http://www.chsprimeland.com/>

Farmers will soon get their first glimpse at a new \$19 million facility designed to level fertilizer prices and keep supplies more steady year-round.

CHS Primeland's open house for the Port of Wilma Agronomy Hub Plant is 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. June 23 in Clarkston, Wash.

The facility has a capacity of 24,000 tons of dry fertilizer storage and 2.5 million gallons of liquid. Roughly 75 percent of the materials will be shipped in, said Jim Miller, director of sales and marketing.

"Most of it is brought in, blended to farmers' specifications and then shipped out," he said.

The facility has manufacturing capabilities, including melting urea, reacting phosphoric acid and converting anhydrous ammonia to aqueous ammonia.

"We realized we were hand-to-mouth with nutrient products," said Tim Eichner, chairman of the CHS Primeland board of directors and a farmer in Kendrick, Idaho. "We realized we needed the ability to store a large amount of product to be able to take it in advance of the season."

Eichner said the facility will help level out prices for growers and make products available year-round.

"The requirements of today's farmer are bigger size and speed," Miller said. "Logistics have become a problem

moving product into the area from further distances. We felt like we really needed a plant to service the Inland Northwest a lot more efficiently and a lot closer."

CHS Primeland's trade area ranges from Spokane in Eastern Washington to Grangeville, Idaho. The facility will also provide storage for sister cooperatives in Central Washington.

The materials will come from multiple sources based on purchasing opportunities, Miller said. It gives the co-op the opportunity to pursue a "better buy for our member-owners," he said.

CHS Primeland will launch the automated system around the same time as the grand opening. Miller said the it will reach full production in the fall.

"It means quality products available with quicker turnaround to meet (farmers') needs better," he said. "The window of time during the season has narrowed, so it is 'Go, go, go, get your crop in the ground, get your products out and on the crop so they can grow better.' The timing is really important."

Miller called the facility a "legacy project" for the CHS Primeland management team.

"Really, it's built for size and scale to meet (producers') need for the next 30 years," he said. "It's going to outlast us and probably outlast the next generation of farmers."

Plaque honors late director of Mexico trade office

By **SEAN ELLIS**
Capital Press

NAMPA, Idaho — Members of Idaho's agricultural industry sponsored a bronze plaque honoring Armando Orellana, the long-time director of Idaho's Mexico trade office, who died in March.

It hangs on the wall of the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho in Nampa.

About 40 people, including Idaho ag leaders, members of Orellana's family and Mexican dignitaries, attended a ceremony dedicating the plaque June 9.

"I am delighted that everyone saw fit to keep Armando's presence alive because he was such a big part of our state and our relationships and friendships in Mexico," said Idaho State Department of Agriculture Director Celia Gould.

"We will always hold a dear part for Armando in our hearts and for his family," Gould said. "Thank you for sharing him with us."

Orellana directed the Idaho trade office in Mexico from 1994-2016. During his tenure exports of Idaho farm products to that nation soared.

More than \$191 million worth of Idaho farm products were sold in Mexico last year, making that country the No. 1 foreign market for Idaho agricultural exports.

"Our exports into Mexico have expanded tremendously," said Idaho Farm Bureau Federation Director of Commodities Dennis Brower, who worked closely with Orellana.



Courtesy of Laura Johnson
State Agriculture Director Celia Gould, right, talks about a memorial plaque honoring Armando Orellana, the late director of Idaho's Mexico trade office, during a dedication ceremony June 9. It hangs on the wall of the Hispanic Cultural Center of Idaho. She is joined by members of Orellana's family.

Brower said Orellana, who previously spent 18 years working for major ag firms in Mexico, had an extensive knowledge of many farm industries and was good at making businesses and farm groups on both sides of the border comfortable with each other.

When it comes to Idaho farm exports in recent years, "He's been an integral part of almost everything that has been done in Mexico," Brower said.

While Idaho farm businesses that sell products in Mexico did a lot of their own work, Orellana played a major role in helping them get started there, said Laura Johnson, who manages IS-

DA's Market Development Division.

"There are so many companies and commodity groups that would really point to all of his hard work as the reason for the business they are doing in Mexico now," she said.

Brower said Orellana was extremely well-liked in Idaho and "he literally became family over the years."

His brother, Javier Orellana, said Armando had a great fondness in his heart for Idahoans.

"Be assured that he always spoke wonderful things about the warm people that he always found here in Idaho," he said.

Orellana was instrumen-

tal 20 years ago in establishing Idaho's sister state relationship with Jalisco, Mexico, which led to the building of the cultural center, Johnson said.

Humberto Fuentes, CEO of the cultural center, said the facility has few plaques honoring people.

Farm labor leader Cesar Chavez is one of them, "and now we have Armando," he said. "We put him in that same category."

Delgado Ramirez, Mexico's consul in Idaho, said Orellana's actions "have improved relations between the state of Idaho and Mexico. Armando will be here forever, not only in mind, but in this plaque."



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Oregon FFA officers prepare for busy year.



Oregon FFA state officers are shown. Front row from left are President Shea Booster of Bend and Secretary Liberty Greenlund of Yamhill-Carlton. Back row from left are Treasurer Raymond Seal of Joseph, Sentinel Bryson Price of Sutherlin, Vice President Hailee Patterson of Imbler and Reporter Zanden Unger of Dallas.

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Recently, six high school seniors were elected to a full year of service as Oregon FFA state officers. They take off a year of school to travel Oregon and visit the 12,000 students who are enrolled in agricultural education in over 105 FFA programs.

This year Oregon FFA elected the following: President Shea Booster of Bend, Vice President Hailee Patterson of Imbler, Secretary Liberty Greenlund of Yamhill-Carlton, Treasurer Raymond Seal of Joseph, Reporter Zanden Unger of Dallas, and Sentinel Bryson Price of Sutherlin.

To be elected, members must show extraordinary leadership skills, take part in a three-day nominating committee process made up of fellow FFA

members, and be elected by the Oregon FFA delegate body.

Since its election in March, the State Officer Team has already completed one of nine Leadership Camps for FFA members throughout the state as well as gone through multiple trainings to prepare for their year of service to Oregon FFA and its members.

The officer team is currently preparing for a very busy summer and state officer year. From now until October officers will work closely with FFA members from across Oregon and assist with facilitation of workshops for eight additional leadership camps.

The state officers will be attending the Oregon State Fair for the duration of the fair to help educate the public about agriculture and FFA. They can be seen throughout the barns talking to the public, being the emcee at several shows and talking to FFA members.

Officers will be part of well over 50 business and industry visits with the Oregon FFA Foundation.

The Oregon FFA Association is a state organization associated with the National FFA Association that makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth and career success through agricultural education. The FFA is an integral part of middle and high school agricultural education programs.

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