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LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS

Immigration, labor toughest political issues facing many in agriculture



DONALD TRUMP ON IMMIGRATION

- Build a wall to keep illegal immigrants, crime and drugs out.
 - Deport criminal illegal immigrants and deport or self-deport the rest; good illegal immigrants can apply to get back in legally.
 - Reform must improve jobs, wages and security for all Americans.
 - Triple the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.
 - Adopt E-Verify, the electronic verification of employment eligibility.
 - Cut off all federal grants to sanctuary cities.
 - Penalize people who overstay visas.
 - End birthright citizenship of illegal immigrants.
 - ICE officers will accompany local law enforcement in raids of violent street gangs.
 - Control the admission of new low-earning workers to help wages grow and ensure that immigrants become part of the American dream.
 - Extreme vetting for suspected terrorists.
- www.donaldjtrump.com/positions/immigration-reform



HILLARY CLINTON ON IMMIGRATION

- Comprehensive immigration reform with a pathway to full citizenship.
 - Deport criminals and those posing a violent threat to public safety.
 - Expand by executive order deportation deferrals and legal work status for illegal immigrants if Congress doesn't act. President Barack Obama tried this and it was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court.
 - End three- and 10-year bar rules requiring illegal immigrants who leave the country to get green cards from having to wait three to 10 years to get back in.
 - End family detention for parents and children who arrive at U.S. borders in desperate situations and close private immigrant detention centers.
 - Extend Obamacare to illegal immigrants.
 - Like Obama, not favorable to guest-worker programs because organized labor opposes them.
 - Expand fee waivers to alleviate naturalization costs, increase access to language programs to encourage English proficiency and increase outreach and education to help more people navigate the process.
- www.hillaryclinton.com/issues/immigration-reform/



Scott McDougall, co-president of McDougall & Sons Inc., stands in his new 570-acre Legacy Orchard near East Wenatchee, Wash., on Sept. 1. His housing in the background provides 144 beds for H-2A-visa foreign guestworkers.

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

WENATCHEE, Wash. — Scott McDougall isn't a fan of Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, but he thinks the Republican presidential nominee will be better for agriculture on the issue of immigration.

McDougall, 63, and his brother Stuart, 67, are co-presidents of McDougall & Sons Inc., a mid-sized Washington tree fruit company in Wenatchee that they started 40 years ago with their late father, Robert.

For labor-intensive agriculture such as tree fruits the key concern in immigration reform is increasing the

supply of seasonal farmworkers for tending and picking fruits and vegetables. It's hard, physical outdoor work that most Americans just don't want to do, even at wages as high as \$20 an hour.

"Everyone talks about a \$15 (per hour) minimum wage but it's kind of mind-boggling to realize tree fruit is paying \$20 and no one wants to do it."

Scott McDougall, co-president of McDougall & Sons Inc.

Legal work status for illegal immigrants who are good workers with no criminal records and improving or replacing the H-2A-visa program so it's easier to hire foreign seasonal guestworkers are the top two items of concern.

Employers also worry that without solving those problems first requiring them to use the E-Verify system for electronic verification of employment eligibility alone

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Dairies oppose Ecology proposal

Federation seeks changes in CAFO rules before they take effect

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

In comments made public Sept. 6, the Washington State Dairy Federation challenges the economics, science and legal authority underpinning new manure-handling rules proposed by the Department of Ecology.

Ecology's proposal would require as many as 300 of the state's 400 dairies to obtain an Ecology-issued permit.

The permit could benefit dairies by forestalling government fines and citizen lawsuits, but the conditions would be too costly, doom some farms and actually degrade the environment as producers sell out to developers, the federation states.

The federation's policy director, Jay Gordon, said he hopes Ecology will revise the proposal before finalizing it by the end of the year.

Some dairies need a permit, but new restrictions on where and when they could spread manure on fields would lead to huge losses and expenses, he said.

"We're stuck between

the devil and the deep blue sea," Gordon said. "If they don't make changes, get your gun out and shoot us now."

Ecology says the rules are needed to prevent or minimize the release of manure into groundwater and waterways. The permit will set down rules to protect water quality, according to the department.

Ecology received 4,534 comments on the proposal — contained in revisions to the state's concentrated animal feeding operation permit, though 4,267 were form letters from environmental groups urging stricter regulation of dairies. Many dairy farmers told Ecology they were worried about staying in business.

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Judge rules against Idaho irrigators on flood control accounting practice

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

BOISE — Treasure Valley irrigators are assessing their options after a judge ruled that water released from Boise River reservoirs for flood control can be counted against their storage water rights.

Judge Eric Wildman, presiding judge of the Snake River Basin Adjudication Court, overturned a special court master's 2015 ruling that the state can't count flood control releases against the reservoir storage rights of water right holders.

Roger Batt, executive director of the Treasure Valley Water Users Association, which represents 300,000 irrigated acres, said irrigators respectfully disagree with Wildman.

Because flood control releases occur in the winter, when the water isn't available to



Capital Press File

Water is stored in the Lucky Peak Reservoir. A judge has sided with the Idaho Department of Water Resources against Treasure Valley irrigators over flood control releases from Boise River

farmers and other irrigators, the water right holders never get a chance to put it to beneficial use, he said.

"That's water we can't use because it's released during a period of time when it can't be

captured and be used on farms or somebody's lawn," Batt said. "We don't understand how water can be counted against us if we were never able to use it."

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