

## FOOD

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Soybean oils took a hit when regulators moved to ban oils with trans fats. Other trans fat-free soybean oils have become available in the years since, but the industry has found it difficult to win back food makers that already switched to different oils, said John Motter, former chair of the United Soybean Board.

Calyxt said the first

customer is a company in the Midwest with multiple restaurant and foodservice locations, such as building cafeterias. It said the customer is using it in dressings and sauces and for frying, but didn't specify if the oil's benefits are being communicated to diners.

Calyxt is working on other gene-edited crops that it says are faster to develop than conventional GMOs, which require regulatory studies. But Tom Adams, CEO of biotech company

Pairwise, said oversight of gene-edited foods could become stricter if public attitude changes.

"You should never think of regulation as settled," Adams said. Pairwise is partnering with Monsanto-parent Bayer on developing gene-edited crops.

International growth could also be a challenge. Last year, Europe's highest court said gene-edited foods should be subject to the same rules as conventional GMOs.

## PLAN

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to slower income growth and stalled opportunities for Americans.

Perhaps most notably among spending proposals, Trump is returning to his border wall fight. Fresh off the longest government shutdown in history, his 2020 plan shows he is eager to confront Congress again over the wall.

The budget proposes increasing defense spending to \$750 billion — and building the new Space Force as a military branch — while reducing nondefense accounts by 5 percent, with cuts recommended to economic safety-net programs used by many Americans. The \$2.7 trillion in proposed reductions over the decade is higher than any administration in history, they say.

On Capitol Hill, the budget landed without much fanfare from Trump's GOP allies, while Democrats found plenty not to like.

"Dangerous," not serious, a "sham," they said. Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called it an "Alice in Wonderland document."

The plan sticks to budget caps that both parties have routinely broken in recent years. To stay within the caps, it shifts a portion of the military spending, some \$165 billion, to an overseas contingency fund, which some fiscal hawks will view as an accounting gimmick.

The budget slashes \$2 trillion from health care spending, while trying to collect \$100 million in new fees

from the electronic cigarette industry to help combat a surge in underage vaping. It provides money to fight opioid addiction and \$291 million to "defeat the HIV/AIDS epidemic."

It cuts the Department of Housing and Urban Development by 16 percent and Education by 10 percent, but includes \$1 billion for a child care fund championed by the president's daughter, Ivanka Trump, a White House adviser.

Trump is returning to old battles while refraining from unveiling many new initiatives. He re-opens plans for repealing "Obamacare," imposing work requirements for those receiving government aid and slashing the Environmental Protection Agency by about a third — all ideas Congress has rejected in the past.

The budget proposes \$200 billion toward infrastructure, much lower than the \$1 trillion plan Trump once envisioned, but does not lay out a sweeping new plan.

By refusing to raise the budget caps, Trump is signaling a fight ahead. The president has resisted big, bipartisan budget deals that break the caps — threatening to veto one last year — but Congress will need to find agreement on spending levels to avoid another federal shutdown in the fall.

Conservatives railed for years against deficits that rose during the first years of Barack Obama's administration as tax revenue plummeted and spending increased during the Great Recession. But even with Republican

control of Congress during the first two years of the Trump administration, deficits were on a steady march upward.

The Democratic chairman of the House Budget Committee, Rep. John Yarmuth of Kentucky, said Trump added nearly \$2 trillion to deficits with the GOP's "tax cuts for the wealthy and large corporations, and now it appears his budget asks the American people to pay the price."

The border wall remains a signature issue for the president, even though Congress refuses to give him more money for it.

To circumvent Congress, Trump declared a national emergency at the border last month as a way to access funding. Lawmakers are uneasy with that and set to vote in the Senate to terminate his national emergency declaration. Congress appears to have enough votes to reject Trump's declaration but not enough to overturn a veto.

The standoff over the wall led to a 35-day partial government shutdown, the longest in U.S. history.

There's also money to hire more than 2,800 additional law enforcement officers, including Border Patrol agents, at a time when many Democrats are calling for cuts — or even the elimination — of Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The wall with Mexico played a big part in Trump's campaign for the White House, and it's expected to again be featured in his 2020 re-election effort. He used to say Mexico would pay for it, but Mexico has refused to do so.

# Tomorrow is National Ag Day

Observer staff

SALEM — A press release from the Oregon Farm Bureau reminds the agriculture community that March 10-16 is 2019 National Ag Week, March 14 is 2019 National Ag Day and March is National Ag Month.

Oregon Farm Bureau, the state's largest general agriculture organization, encourages all Oregonians to take a moment to remember the hard-working farm and ranch families across the state and nation during National Ag Week/Day/Month.

"Agriculture benefits all Oregonians by ensuring food security, providing jobs, preserving the environment and enhancing our quality of life. It's particularly impressive when you realize that farmers and ranchers represent less than 1 percent of the state's population," said Anne Ma-

### Fast facts about Oregon agriculture:

97% of Oregon's farms and ranches are family owned and operated.

Less than 1% of Oregon's population are principal operators of farms and ranches.

In Oregon, 39% of all farms and ranches are women, which is one of the highest percentages in the nation. The Oregon Century Farm & Ranch Program reports that 1,212 farms and ranches have achieved century status for remaining operational and within the same family for at least 100 years. In addition, 41 more boast Sesquicentennial status for reaching the 150-year milestone.

Oregon farmers, ranchers and fishers produce more than 225 crops and livestock, making Oregon one of the most diverse agricultural states in the nation.

Find more facts about Oregon agriculture on Oregon Farm Bureau's website at [www.oregonfb.org/agweek](http://www.oregonfb.org/agweek).

rie Moss, communications director for Oregon Farm Bureau.

OFB has released videos featuring an Oregon cherry farmer, mint farmer, blackberry farmer, green bean farmer, broccoli farmer,

pumpkin farmer, Christmas tree farmer, grass seed farmer and more at [www.oregonfb.org/videos/](http://www.oregonfb.org/videos/) (also available on OFB's YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/user/OregonFarmBureau](http://www.youtube.com/user/OregonFarmBureau)).

## ROADKILL

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death."

### Idaho law

After Lindscoog returns home, he's required by state law to visit the Idaho Fish and Game website within 24 hours to describe the roadkill: what species he salvaged, its gender and where and when he found the animal.

For Idaho, each dead deer, elk, moose, coyote, black bear, porcupine and pronghorn is a data point.

State officials use the information to identify animal migration patterns, feeding areas and dangerous stretches of road. Their goal is to protect animals, but also people and their vehicles, said Gregg Servheen, Idaho Fish and Game wildlife program coordinator.

"We've built an entire transportation system across the whole United States, and for decades it's been, 'Flattened fauna, who cares?'" Servheen said in his Boise office. "You hoped you didn't hit one. You drove by them all the time. It was just a given.

"Now we're getting to a point where maybe there's a better way."

Since legalizing roadkill salvaging in 2012, Idaho has used its data to build fencing, warning signs, wildlife underpass tunnels and wildlife overpasses to protect deer, elk and other animals.

In the first two months of this year, Idahoans salvaged more than 300 animals from the side of the road, adding to the more than 5,000 animals retrieved since 2016.

Not every animal is legally salvageable in Idaho. Nongame wildlife, threatened or endangered species, migratory birds and other animals that are not legally hunted are off-limits. This includes bald eagles, Canada lynx and grizzly bears.

Servheen acknowledges that the state's data depends on scattered reports from residents. Data might

identify a migration pattern, or it might just identify a community where people more diligently report roadkill. The online form isn't accessible to many Idahoans who live in the backcountry without reliable cell or internet service.

### Other states follow

Whatever its limitations, Idaho's salvaging law has been the basis of similar laws that have recently passed in neighboring Oregon and Washington.

Oregon state Sen. Bill Hansell has a new nickname around the chamber: "Roadkill Bill," a Republican from Umatilla County whose rural district is about the size of Maryland, Hansell authored the bill that unanimously passed the Legislature in 2017.

He saw the roadkill as a wasted opportunity. Now, he said, Oregonians "are being fed high-protein, organic meat they've chosen to eat that otherwise would have rotted on the side of the road."

In January, the month the law went into effect, Oregonians salvaged 124 animals, mostly deer and elk. Unlike in Idaho, though, residents must turn in the antlers and heads of the animals to the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Hansell hasn't salvaged any roadkill yet.

While more than half of states have some version of a roadkill-salvaging law — some even for decades — momentum has been growing in Western states to pass new legislation.

### California legislation

Rennie Cleland was tired of seeing good meat go to waste.

When he was hired in 1988 as the game warden in Dorris, California — a small town of 900 people at the Oregon border — he wanted to find an alternative to spending taxpayer dollars to pick up dead deer off mountain roads and throw them into a ditch.

While salvaging roadkill was illegal throughout the state, Cleland worked with

his superiors at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Forest Service officials and the local police chief to create a program under which residents could opt to accept meat from animals killed nearby.

Over the course of 23 years, local officials processed and delivered 36,700 pounds of wild game meat to needy people in the area.

"That is a lot of meat," Cleland said. "It's criminal that we don't do something with this meat. It's worse than criminal that we as a state are wasting that meat and issuing citations to people who salvage it."

But state officials in Sacramento shut down the program in 2011, saying they feared people would hit animals on purpose.

John Griffin, senior director of the urban wildlife program at the Humane Society of the United States, said verifying that animals were truly killed by accident and not targeted has long been a concern of his group and others.

"People run down animals with snow machines," he said. "That's exactly the opposite thing we would want to encourage. Does someone do that on the road? It's hard to say."

California's policy may soon change, however. State lawmakers now are considering new legislation that would legalize roadkill salvaging. One of Cleland's old game warden colleagues helped write the bill after, he said, he witnessed how successful salvaging can be for a community and poten-

tially a state.

Roy Griffith, legislative liaison for the conservation group California Rifle & Pistol Association, reworked language from similar Idaho, Oregon and Washington laws to fit California and found a willing lawmaker, Democratic state Sen. Bob Archuleta, to introduce the legislation. The tens of thousands of animals killed on California highways every year may not die in vain, he said.

"I don't care if it was killed by a rifle or a bumper," he said. "It's a beautiful, incredible animal rotting on the roadside. To me, it's a sin to see it die in a magpie pile."

As in Idaho, it would be legal to kill a suffering animal wounded in a collision.

### But is it safe?

In some communities, roadkill has long been used to feed low-income families. In Alaska, where between 600 and 800 moose are killed by cars each year, state troopers will notify charities and families after an accident to salvage the meat.

But food-safety concerns have led some charities to restrict roadkill donations. While many charities gladly accept donations of hunted deer, elk and moose meat that has been packaged by a professional processor, Idaho Foodbank sites will not accept meat from animals killed by vehicles. It's a precaution for the families, said Jennifer Erickson, the agency's food safety and compliance manager.



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"You just don't know if the animal is diseased," she said. "Depending on the impact, there might be contamination. You just don't know."

E. coli, which has been found in elk, deer and moose, also concerns Deirdre Schlunegger, the CEO of the Chicago-based nonprofit Stop Foodborne Illness. As does chronic wasting disease, an infectious disease fatal to deer, elk and moose that can now be found in at least 24 states.

While people consume between 7,000 and 15,000 infected deer each year, there are no cases of the chronic wasting disease being transmitted to humans, according to a 2017 report from the Alliance for Public Wildlife. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control is still trying to determine whether consuming infected deer or elk meat could harm people.

The brain-eating disease has appeared in neighboring Montana, Utah and Wyoming, prompting Idaho Fish and Game to request, but not require, the heads of salvaged animals so they can be tested for the disease. Officials want to know when the disease makes its way into their state.

Despite these concerns, eating roadkill remains popular in Idaho. If you know how to identify bruised or tainted meat, salvaging roadkill is a nourishing and respectful practice, said Jerry Myers, a resident of North Fork, nearly six hours north of Boise.

As snow builds in the winter, deer, elk and bighorn sheep descend from the mountains to the valley floor near his home, said Myers, 64. They often wander onto the two-lane highway that hugs the Salmon River, where blinking lights and signs fail to prevent many collisions.

Late one winter evening in 2016, Myers and his wife were driving near their home when a semitruck ahead of them hit a yearling elk. They stopped to make sure the driver wasn't injured. He was fine, but the elk was dead.

Myers saw that most of the elk could be salvaged, so the couple loaded it into their pickup and took it home. It produced a hundred pounds of meat.

"I really hate to have something that's potentially salvageable go to waste," Myers said. "We appreciate the animals where we live."

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