## FORECAST

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slightly profitable. A mild fire season meant summer logging was not interrupted and now log supplies are ample. Increased log supplies are helping mills manage low lumber prices. As building season wraps up, housing starts are around 1.25 million, below many projections of around 1.3 million.

Hay: Alfalfa will be profitable given tighter supplies, and timothy slightly profitable due to an abundance of middle-grade hay inventory. Supplies of high-quality hay are limited.

Nursery/greenhouse: Nursery and greenhouse producers are expected to remain profitable due to strong sales. The industry's supply and demand appear to be in balance as carryover inventories are limited. Increasing labor and input costs could soften revenues from increased gross sales.

Onions: Onion growers may receive slightly profitable returns. Yields in Washington and the Treasure Valley are expected to be down as much as 30% due to the late planting this spring. Growing conditions in Washington were favorable, producing a high-quality crop that will likely store well. Treasure Valley early onions have some quality issues, but later harvested onions appear to be good quality.

Pears: Slight profits for pear growers are foreseen. The official crop estimate says production will be similar to last season's. However, reports from the northern Washington growing region indicate the crop is smaller than estimated. Although the pear industry is working hard to improve consumer demand, solutions may take a few years to achieve success. Therefore, soft prices are expected again this year.

Potatoes: The outlook is profitable for contracted potatoes, and slightly profitable to profitable for uncontracted potatoes. Harvest has started in the Columbia Basin and Idaho with early indications of a smaller crop than in 2018. Producers with early market potatoes of large size will be able to take advantage of higher grower returns.

Sugar beets: Most sugar beet producers could see profitable returns. Isolated weather events hindered production in Montana. This comes as the USDA projects a lower sugar stocks-to-use ratio. Lower supply is favorable to sugar prices and producer profitability.

Wheat: Forecasts call for break-even returns for wheat producers. Strong global stocks continue to weigh on grain prices. Rotational crop returns are below break-even and yields are varied significantly across the Northwest.

Wine/vineyard: The outlook indicates slight profits for vineyards while winery returns are expected to be slightly profitable. New products and younger consumer groups present opportunities despite the larger trend of slowing alcohol consumption. High grape supplies continue to challenge vineyards, especially growers with uncontracted acreage.

## HAPPENINGS

*Continued from Page 1B*

peers and having fun.

To take advantage of a reduced rate for lodging, hotel reservations must be made by Oct. 28 — and the $50 conference registration fee is due by Nov. 7 (fee includes dinner on Friday and Saturday and lunch on Saturday). The registration form and hotel information is available at www.OregonFB.org/yfrconference. For more information, email yfr@oregonfb.org or call Jacon Taylor at 541-589-9694.

### Vote for UC Chamber Board by Nov. 1

LA GRANDE — The Union County Chamber of Commerce reminds members that votes for the open positions on the 2020 Board of Directors must be submitted by 5 p.m. Nov. 1. The candidates are Mollie Hulse (incumbent), Ryan Leonard, Mike Rysavy and Caleb Sampson. To cast your vote, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/VCDBVVR or call the Chamber at 541-963-8588.


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