

RETURNS

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producers. Cattle feeders will be break-even to slightly profitable with variation based on risk management strategies. Cattle producers are expected to be slightly profitable as strong demand for beef is coupled with peak cattle inventory.

Forest products: profitable margins for timberland owners and sawmill operators

Although log prices remain low compared to 2018's peak, margins are profitable for timberland

owners and prices are expected to remain stable or improve. Processors have worked through high-cost logs from 2018 and lumber prices are slightly improving.

Hay: moderate profitability

Alfalfa profitability will moderate as producers intend to plant more acres in 2020. Large inventory of mid-grade timothy continues to drive languid prices, weighing on profitability.

Nursery/greenhouse: solid profitability

A strong economy will support stable housing demand, which will continue to sustain strong

nursery sales. Growers secured price increases in recent years and modest price rises are expected in the year ahead. However, growing labor costs remain a challenge for producers.

Onions: slightly profitable returns

Onion prices would be profitable but given variability of packouts, returns vary by producer and growing region. International competition driven by the strong dollar will continue to favor imports as domestic supplies remain low.

Potatoes: profitable contracted and uncontracted potatoes

An early cold snap froze as much as 15% of fresh market potatoes in Idaho. Other major production regions in the U.S. suffered the same fate.

Sugar beets: profitable

USDA's forecast suggests a drop in the stocks-to-use ratio from 14.5 (2018-19) to 13.5 (2019-20), a favorable ratio for Northwest sugar beet producers.

Wheat: break-even returns

USDA's projected 2019-20 season-average farm price for all-wheat is \$4.80 per bushel, down \$0.20 from last year. Variability in yield and quality will drive indi-

vidual producer profitability.

Apples and cherries: slight profits

A large apple crop has tempered prices. However, good fruit movement and continued trade agreement momentum should support prices in 2020, and varieties and quality continue to play a role in profitability. Mild weather during the cherry growing season resulted in good fruit quality. Strong domestic demand after major crop losses in California created strong markets for Northwest cherries, but pricing programs set earlier in the year tempered returns.

HAPPENINGS

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advertise their business or organization. To sponsor a table, two tickets must be purchased. Contact the chamber soon to reserve your table.

Bicameral Farmers Bill of Rights resolution introduced

WASHINGTON — Oregon Sen. Jeff Merkley, along with Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and Reps. Deb Haaland (D-NM) and Chellie Pingree (D-ME), have introduced a Farmers Bill of Rights resolution that affirms the rights of family farmers, ranchers and traditional agricultural communities in Oregon and across the country.

"Family farms have been the backbone of Oregon's agricultural economy for generations," said Merkley in a press release. "These farmers' dedication to responsible stewardship of our land and agricultural innovation are woven into the fabric of the Oregonian spirit and have contributed to communities in every corner of our state. That's why we must make sure family farmers have a

level playing field to compete."

The resolution, described as "ground-breaking," outlines 10 basic rights that all family farmers and ranchers should have access to. Oregon is home to more than 38,000 farms, which compete in national and international marketplaces and would benefit from the reforms outlined in the Farmers Bill of Rights, according to the release.

The Farmers Bill of Rights highlights the challenges facing family farmers and ranchers, including historically underserved farmers and ranchers; recommends a strict cap on foreign ownership in order to ensure all American farmers can access domestic farm land; gives historically underserved farmers and ranchers access to capital and an equal voice against increasing corporate concentration and abusive practices in America's farm and food markets; and supports country of origin labeling.

Northwest Farm Credit Services customer-members to receive nearly half of cooperative's earnings in cash

SPOKANE — The Northwest Farm

Credit Services Board of Directors announced the association will pay \$145 million in cash patronage dividends to customer-members throughout the Northwest, which is 1.25% of their eligible average daily loan balances. Payments will start in mid-February.

"We're pleased to pay nearly half our 2019 earnings back to the customer-members who helped create the association's success," Northwest FCS President and CEO Phil DiPofi said. "They in turn can reinvest dollars back into their businesses, families and rural communities, providing a boost to our rural economies."

Northwest FCS has paid patronage dividends every year since 2000, totaling more than \$1 billion in patronage to customer-members. Northwest FCS, with headquarters in Spokane, Washington, is a \$13 billion financial cooperative providing financing and related services to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, commercial fishermen, timber producers, rural homeowners and crop insurance customers in Montana, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Alaska.

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 Cabinet Shop: 217 Greenwood Street, La Grande 541-963-2613

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114 Self-Help Group Meetings

WALLOWA COUNTY AA MEETINGS

Enterprise

MONDAYS

- Enterprise Group 7:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.

TUESDAYS

- Enterprise Group 12 - 1:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.
- Enterprise Group 7 - 8:00 pm (Big Bk Study) 113.5 E Main St.

WEDNESDAYS

- Enterprise Group 7:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.

THURSDAYS

- Enterprise Group 12 - 1:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.
- All Saints (Mens Mtg) 7:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.
- Grapevine Meeting 301 S. Lake; 5:30 pm

FRIDAYS

- Enterprise Group 7:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.

SATURDAYS

- Enterprise Group 7:00 pm 113.5 E Main St.

City of Joseph

MONDAYS

- Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) Joseph United Methodist Church; 6:00 pm 301 S. Lake St, Corner 3rd & Lake/Side Stairs, Lake St

WEDNESDAYS

- Grace and Dignity (Womans Mtg) 12 pm 301 S. Lake St., Church Basement

City of Wallowa

SUNDAYS

- Church of Christ 504 w. 2nd St.; 5:00 pm

SATURDAYS

- Church of Christ 504 w. 2nd St.; 12:00 pm

Questions call AA Hotline: 541-624-5117 www.oregonaadistrict29.org

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 Tuesdays
 Thursdays
 Saturdays

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

UNION COUNTY AA MEETINGS LA GRANDE

MONDAYS

Primary Purpose Group 12 - 1:00pm 2620 Bearco Loop

TUESDAYS

Into Action Group 12 - 1:00 pm Presbyterian Church 1308 Washington Ave. (entry 6th & Spring St.)

Surrender Group 7 - 8:00 pm 2620 Bearco Loop

City of Elgin Greater Elgin Group 7 - 8 :00 pm St. Mary's Catholic Church 93 S 12 St., Elgin

WEDNESDAYS

Primary Purpose Group 12 - 1:00 pm 2620 Bearco Loop

Surrender Group 7 - 8:00 pm 2620 Bearco Loop

Island City Soul Sister's 5:30 p.m. 10801 Walton Rd. Blue Springs Apartments Community Room

Turning Point Group 7 - 8:15 pm 63161 Gekeler Lane Fort Union Grange Hall (Corner of McAllister & Gekeler)

114 Self-Help Group Meetings

THURSDAYS

Surrender Group 7 - 8:00 pm 2620 Bearco Loop

City of Cove Cove Group 7 - 8:00 pm Baptist Church 707 Main St.

FRIDAYS

Primary Purpose Group 12 - 1:00 pm 2620 Bearco Loop

City of Elgin Elgin Group (Winter only) 6:00 PM 70564 Valley View Rd (in shop)

SATURDAYS

Surrender Group 10 - 11:00 am 2620 Bearco Loop

Grande Ronde Valley Group 7 - 8:00 pm Presbyterian Church 1308 Washington Ave. (entry 6th & Spring St.)

SUNDAYS

Miracles Meeting 10 - 11:00 am 2620 Bearco Loop

Questions call AA Hotline: 541-624-5117 www.oregonaadistrict29.org

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