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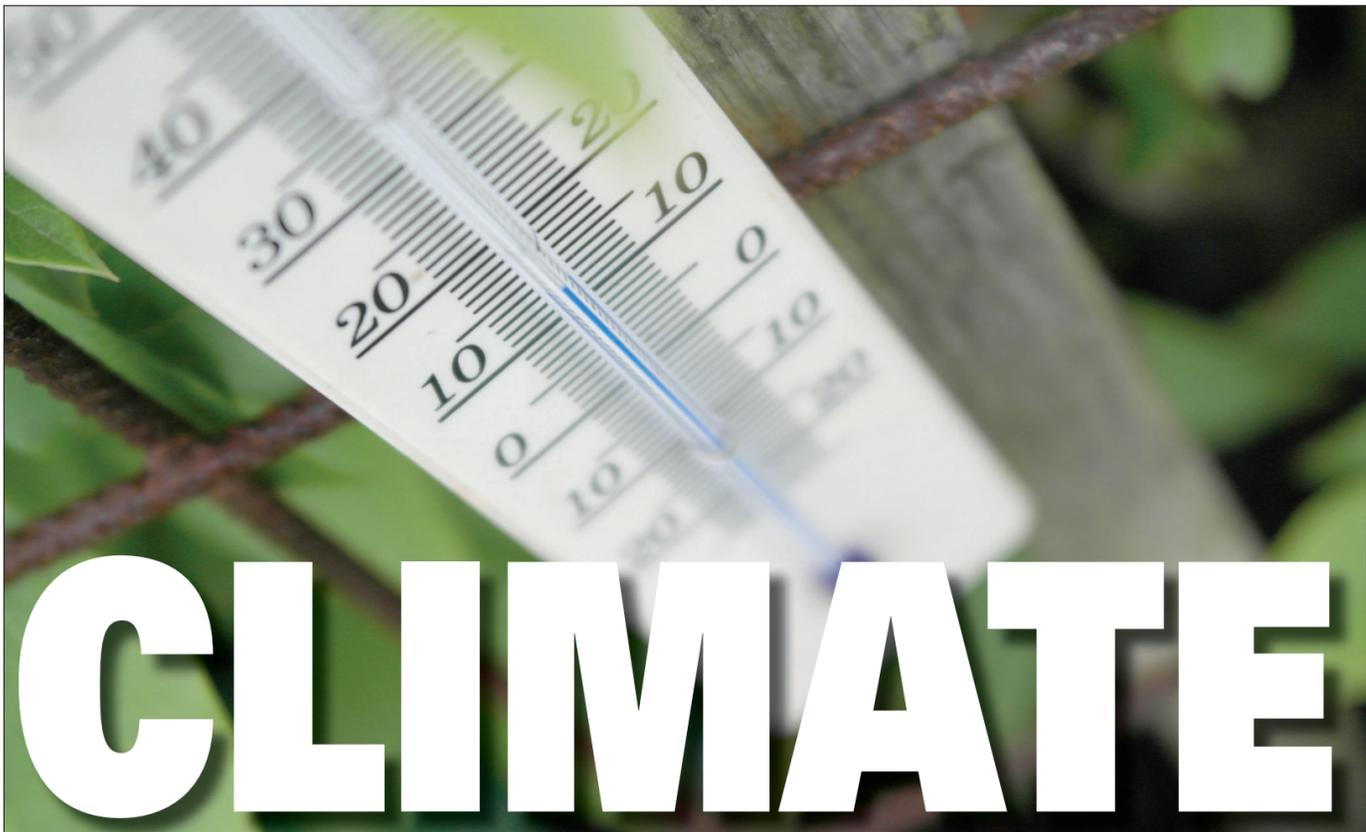
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Record temperature claim gets hot and cold receptions

DEBATE

By JOHN O'CONNELL
Capital Press

Clair Bosen watched cattle graze on the stubble of corn he raised for grain — a spectacle he insists would have been nearly impossible on his Preston, Idaho, farm just a couple of decades ago.

It used to be, the 78-year-old farmer and rancher explained, that area producers dared only to raise silage corn in this part of the state. Even then, earlier frosts would often cut into their yields.

Nowadays, Bosen said, the area's growing season has gotten markedly longer, to the point that he can consistently raise corn for grain and even count on an extra cutting of alfalfa.

Bosen raised his first short-season variety of corn for grain about 13 years ago and switched to better-yielding, 100-day maturity corn a couple of years later.

"I don't think our average temperatures are any higher, but we don't have the cold weather through half of May," Bosen said. "We used to think we had to wait until May 15 to 20 to plant. Now we're planting on May 1."

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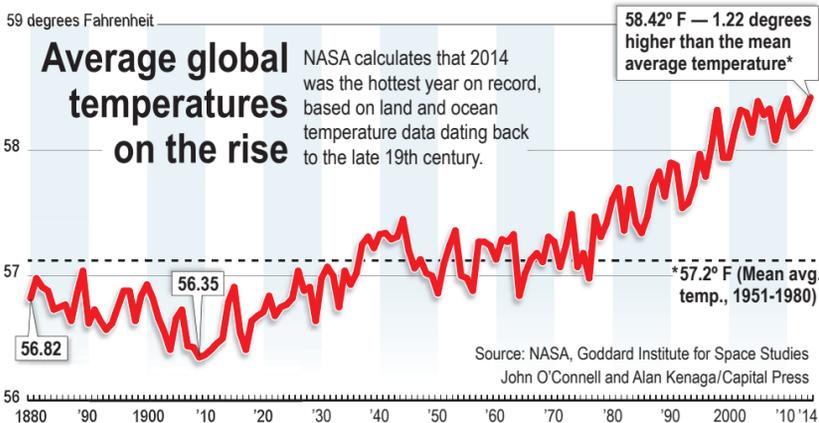


John O'Connell/Capital Press

Clair Bosen, of Preston, Idaho, stands in a field of corn stubble while their cattle graze. He raised the corn for grain, which he believes has become possible during the past 15 years because of a longer growing season.

INSIDE
Potato growers adjust to changing conditions

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EU bans Northwest poultry as bird flu cases increase

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The 28-member European Union on Jan. 20 banned poultry products from Washington, Idaho, and Douglas County in Oregon as confirmed cases of bird flu have increased.

The EU joined Japan and Belarus, which added Idaho to their previous bans on poultry from Washington and Oregon. China announced Jan. 16 that it would reject U.S. poultry shipped after Jan. 9.

Three non-commercial flocks in Washington, one in Oregon and one in Idaho have been infected with highly pathogenic bird flu since mid-December. Wild birds with the disease have been found in Washington, California and Utah.

Officials suspect migratory waterfowl are spreading the disease. The virus has not been detected in U.S. commercial flocks, but its appearance in backyard flocks has brought restrictions on U.S. poultry exports.

Highly pathogenic bird flu was detected in backyard chickens, captive falcons and wild ducks in western and southern Idaho, State Veterinarian Bill Barton said Tuesday.

Several wild ducks infected with H5N8 avian influenza were found in Gooding County, while the falcons and chickens in a small non-commercial flock were infected with H5N2 in Canyon County.

The three falcons confirmed to have had the virus were fed wild duck, Barton said. The owner has other falcons, which are under quarantine and are being tested, Barton said.

The chicken flock was about 20 miles away, he said. The owner had not been moving birds off the property, Barton said.

The premises were immediately put under quarantine, and the birds were euthanized.

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DOL drops 'hot goods' charges against growers

Agency will return money, pay farms additional \$30,000

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

The U.S. Department of Labor will return money previously paid by Oregon blueberry growers and drop lawsuits

accusing them of "hot goods" labor law violations.

The agency will also pay an additional \$30,000 to each of the two farms — Pan-American Berry Growers and B&G Ditchen — as part of a recent legal settlement.

The farms have agreed to withdraw their counterclaims against DOL and neither party is admitting to any liability under the deal.

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Pan-American Berry Growers produces blueberries near Salem, Ore. The U.S. Department of Labor will return money previously paid by Pan-American and B&G Ditchen and drop lawsuits accusing them of "hot goods" labor law violations. Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

THIS WEEK IN THE CAPITAL PRESS



CALIFORNIA
Strawberry acreage to decline slightly in 2015
The prolific qualities of some new varieties may be one reason California's overall strawberry acreage is expected to decline.

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OREGON
Stripe rust found early in Willamette Valley wheat

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