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## Douglas calls for spring, summer moisture

Summer El Niño a 'red flag' for PNW

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

SPOKANE — A celebrated weatherman predicts a cool, wet spring and summer, but a continued El Niño could delay planting in the fall for the Northwest region.

Art Douglas, professor emeritus at Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., and a mainstay at the Spokane Ag Expo, addressed farmers at the event.



Douglas

Douglas expects warm temperatures to persist in the western United States through February, keeping precipitation below normal levels.

"This is not a real good pattern for trying to get some much-needed rain into the western U.S.," Douglas said.

April is the best chance for spring precipitation in the Pacific Northwest, Douglas said.

Douglas predicts cool temperatures and moisture in the region through June and July. Weather could delay planting in the Midwest.

"I think prices are going to get kind of wacky in early summer, not because of hot, dry weather, but because they've planted too late and it's persisting to be cool," Douglas said.

Farmers will gradually start seeing an increase in moisture, but the PNW tends to be dry in the fall and winter, easing in the spring. Douglas expects cooler, wetter weather in the spring and early summer.

"Things probably look more bleak now than what they're going to be looking like as we get towards June," Douglas said. "Then we start worrying about harvest conditions in July. If July indeed is cool and wet, then some people are going to be complaining."

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## Even after it's over, the months-long port slowdown will continue to cost Western agriculture tens of millions of dollars

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

TANGENT, Ore. — Stan Boshart was headed for a meeting with a rye grass grower when he received a text from his daughter, Shelly Boshart Davis, vice president of international sales of his export company.

Members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union had walked off the job again at the Port of Portland.

It meant Boshart's nine trucks hauling rye grass straw 54 miles from his straw press in Salem to the port for shipment to Japan and South Korea would have to turn around.

It was the morning of Jan. 27. It wasn't the first time he'd received such news.

"Instead of two (walkouts) a month, it's turning into six a month. It's really bad. It's as if the longshoremen are trying to figure out the most effective way to hurt truckers," Boshart said. "Sometimes it's right after their (the longshoremen's) morning break or right after lunch."

Boshart, 56, and his wife, Lori, own Bossco Trading, Bossco Trucking and SJB Farms in Tangent, Ore., a small town south of Portland that claims the title of "Grass Seed Capital of the World." His father started the farm in 1950. But the slowdown at West Coast ports over the past three months — while longshoremen and terminal operators negotiate a new contract — has Boshart by the throat.

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Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Mike Hajny, vice president of Wesco International, walks through the company's Ellensburg, Wash., yard on Jan. 29. Behind him are several of 50 loaded containers of hay for Japan that are on hold because of the port slowdown.

**INSIDE**  
Container terminal operators warn of port shutdown

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## Environmental groups sue EPA over CAFOs

Regulators must restrict livestock facility emissions, lawsuit claims

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

Environmental groups claim the federal government has violated the Clean Air Act by ignoring their pleas for greater restrictions on emis-

sions from confined animal feeding operations.

The Humane Society of the United States and other groups have filed legal complaints alleging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency didn't respond to petitions

filed in 2009 and 2011 that demanded CAFOs be regulated as stationary sources of pollution, similar to factories.

The plaintiffs claim EPA's lack of action violates a law

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Robert Young, 68, checks the well-being of his hogs on his family farm in 2012 in Buckhart, Ill.

M. Spencer Green  
Associated Press

### THIS WEEK IN THE CAPITAL PRESS



**OREGON**

#### Rules approved for hemp production

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is optimistic the state's first industrial hemp crops will be planted this spring.

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**CALIFORNIA**

#### Low snow readings

The season's second snowpack readings reinforce that drought this year will be at least as severe as it was in 2014.

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