

# NORTH CASCADE GRIZZLY BEAR RESTORATION CONSIDERED



U.S. Department of the Interior will hold a series of informational open houses in coming weeks **Page 7**

# Capital Press

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# SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT SMALL PROCESSORS GET A BIG BOOST



Photos by Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

Scott Ogle checks a line of processed chickens that await bagging. The number of custom processors in Oregon is increasing rapidly.

## Farm groups watch for changes under new governor

Ag lobbyists hope Brown will keep key agency officials

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

SALEM — With a new governor taking office in Oregon, farm groups are watching for a possible domino effect of leadership change in natural resource agencies.



Agricultural lobbyists are also waiting to see if Gov. Kate Brown will push for key policies espoused by her predecessor, former Gov. John Kitzhaber, who planned to champion funding for increased water storage and other rural issues before his recent abrupt resignation.

Over the course of Kitzhaber's three terms, the farm industry had acquired a strong sense of his environmental policies that affect agriculture, said Blake Rowe, CEO of the Oregon Wheat Commission.

"We don't have a feeling about how Kate Brown feels about these same issues," he said.

Brown has a degree in environmental law and a record of supporting environmental causes — earning a positive "score" of 87 percent from the Oregon League of Conservation Voters — but farm industry lobbyists say they're optimistic she's not biased against agricultural interests.

"We have no reason to believe she won't be open and

Turn to **BROWN**, Page 12

## USDA exemption, change in Oregon law opens doors for poultry slaughterhouses

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

BORING, Ore. — Fernando the rooster is doomed, no way around it. Owner Leslie Standen says the "Latin lover" has been bothering the ladies in her backyard flock and bossing around her other rooster, Henry, who has tenure.

"So my hand-fed rooster is going to be dinner," she said.

Which is how she and Fernando ended up at Harrington's Poultry Processing, 25 miles east of Portland.

Harrington's is one of the old guard in a rapidly growing sector of ag services: Small-scale slaughterhouses either operated by or catering to small farmers. Some also find themselves doing the dirty work for urban hip-



sters who raise backyard flocks. A 2011 change in Oregon law freed poultry processors from state licensing if they handle no more than 1,000 birds per year, raise the birds

themselves and process them on site. The legislation changed Oregon law to line up with the federal standard, which says producers are exempt from mandatory USDA inspection and can sell uncooked poultry on the farm and at farmers' markets if they stay below the 1,000-bird threshold.

### An 'olive branch'

"It was the first olive branch to small farmers from the Oregon Legislature," said Will Fargo, a food safety specialist with the Oregon Department of Agriculture who works with small-scale processors. "It's one of the greatest success stories for small farmers. It's allowed a lot of small farmers to get their products to market."

Turn to **POULTRY**, Page 12



Leslie Standen says farewell to her rooster, Fernando, after delivering him to a custom processor. "So my hand-fed rooster is going to be dinner," she says.

## Ag losses mount from port slowdown

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

Agricultural shipments from West Coast ports are running at about 50 percent of the normal volume, and exporters have lost an estimated \$1.75 billion in business during each of the past two months alone, according

to the Agriculture Transportation Coalition.

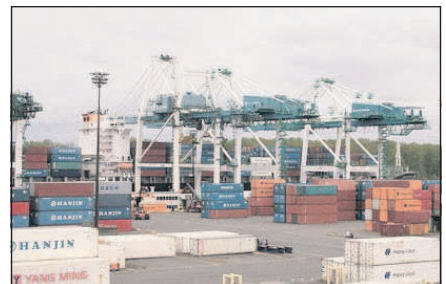
Losses may continue at that level until work at the ports returns to normal, said Peter Friedmann, the coalition's executive director.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union and the terminal operators, represented by the Pacific

Maritime Association, are in the eighth month of contract negotiations. They blame each other for the associated work slowdown that has halved the number of container shipments at the 29 West Coast ports.

Losses for agricultural

Turn to **PORT**, Page 12



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press file

Container terminal operations at the Port of Portland, pictured in this Capital Press file photo, and other facilities on the West Coast have suffered from serious congestion that is impeding agricultural exports.

### THIS WEEK IN THE CAPITAL PRESS



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So you're an employer and an employee asks for your help in applying for a work permit granted under President Obama's controversial immigration executive actions.

Page 3

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