



# Capital Press

## The West's Ag Weekly

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2015

VOLUME 88, NUMBER 9

WWW.CAPITALPRESS.COM

\$2.00

Early spring worries growers Accelerated development may expose crops to frost

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

Unseasonably warm winter temperatures have some Northwest crops stirring to life earlier than usual, leaving them potentially vulnerable to a cold snap, experts say.

"We're way ahead of what we would expect," said Len Coop, associate director at Oregon State University's Integrated Plant Protection Center.

Accumulated heat units — measured as "degree days" — are significantly higher than normal in 2015 across the region, spurring the growth of plants affected by temperature rather than day length, according to OSU data.

In the vicinity of Salem, Ore., for example, the development of crops is more than two weeks ahead of 2014 and a month ahead of 2013.

The danger is the seemingly early arrival of spring will coax buds to break and flowers to bloom at a time when a sudden drop in temperatures remains likely, experts say.

"They can be caught with a late frost and that can be devastating," said Coop.

Growers of blueberries and caneberries hope that temperatures will be cool enough in March to slow the emergence of flowers and tender plant tissues without damaging them, said Tom Peerbolt, a crop consultant.

Farmers want to avoid extremes during late winter and early spring, particularly if crops are set to come out from dormancy ahead of schedule, he said.

"It's got people nervous, for sure," he said. "Being this accelerated, it increases certain risk factors, but none of those risks at this point have played out."

Fighting freezing temperatures is not uncommon for orchardists in areas like Oregon's Rogue Valley but an early bloom threatens to extend the length and expense of the battle.

Turn to **SPRING**, Page 12

# Livestock practices changing

Antibiotic resistance, better vaccines impact herd management

By TIM HEARDEN  
Capital Press

CHICO, Calif. — Producers are changing the way they care for their livestock as increasing regulation and consumer awareness bring more scrutiny to the use of antibiotics in animal agriculture.

New guidelines from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration have effectively eliminated use of the drugs for livestock growth promo-

tion or feed efficiency, and even more restrictive rules are being considered at the federal and state levels in an attempt to curb the problem of antibiotic-resistant bacteria in humans.

"No one wants to be the last person to play by the rules," said John Maas, a beef extension veterinarian at the University of California-Davis. "There's always going to be bad

Turn to **ANTIBIOTICS**, Page 14



David Daley, left, interim dean of the California State University-Chico College of Agriculture, discusses herd management with Garrett Wallis, the student herdsman for Chico State's beef unit.

Tim Hearden  
Capital Press

# BACKLOG CLOGS PORTS

Tens of thousands of containers will take months to clear as dock worker slowdown ends

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

It will take two to three months to clear a massive backlog of containers at West Coast ports and allow exports and imports to flow at normal levels again, a Pacific Maritime Association spokesman says.

A tentative contract agreement between the PMA and the International Longshore and Warehouse Union, reached late Feb. 20, ended a nine-month work slowdown at 30 West Coast ports, from San Diego to Seattle, that cost billions of dollars in lost trade.

It will take at least a month for the 73 terminal operators and shipping lines that belong to the PMA and 13,600 longshoremen to review and ratify the contract, said Steve Getzug, a PMA spokesman.

Meanwhile, longshoremen resumed a normal work pace with the Saturday night shift, Feb. 21, beginning the task of clearing tens of thousands of containers plugging dockyards at the ports, Getzug said.

"It's a complicated choreography," he said of moving the loaded and empty containers, clearing paths to get to ships.

As of Monday, Feb. 23, 22 ships were being worked at dockside at Los Angeles and Long Beach, Getzug said. Thirty-five others were at anchor in those harbors waiting to get in and two dozen more were on their way, he said.

He didn't have numbers for other ports but said Los Angeles and Long Beach would have the most ships and containers since they are the largest ports.

The only problem was at Oakland, where a disagreement over work breaks held up operations until Sunday night, he said.

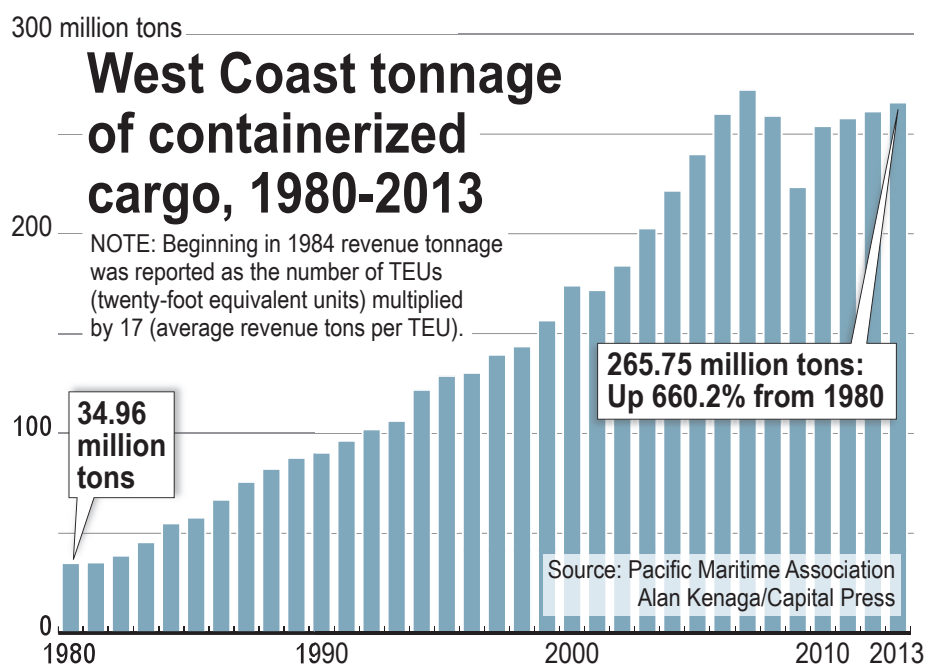
### Shipper leaves Portland

Another issue is the loss of Hanjin Shipping at the Port of Portland as of March 9. Earlier this month, Hanjin announced it would end service at

Turn to **PORTS**, Page 12



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### THIS WEEK IN THE CAPITAL PRESS

Farm labor association extends reach into other states Page 3



Drone ban wins support from hunters

Legislation directs the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to write regulations that prohibit drones for hunting.



Page 15

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