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Portland ag exports still hinge on labor dispute

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

PORTLAND — Containerized farm exports from the Port of Portland are unlikely to revive without a reconciliation between the longshoremen's union and the container facility's operator, a port official says.

The Hanjin shipping line stopped calling at the facility last month due to low productivity, but the port hopes to eventually restore direct container service to Asia.

While other carriers still use the port, Hanjin handled most of the container volume. Agricultural exporters who relied on Portland must now ship to Asia through more distant terminals.

However, ocean carriers will be reluctant to take over for Hanjin in Portland until a longstanding dispute is resolved between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union and ICTSI Oregon, the container terminal's operator, said Sebastian Degens, general manager of marine and terminal business development at the port.

It's possible the relationship must still "hit rock bottom" before such a truce can occur, Degens told Capital Press at an April 1 panel discussion on agricultural trade in Portland.

ICTSI and ILWU are mired in several lawsuits that also involve the port and the National Labor Relations Board.

The union was recently ordered to pay \$60,000 for contempt of court after a federal judge found longshoremen had violated an order not to engage in work slowdowns.

Meanwhile, ICTSI is challenging another ruling in the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that dismissed some of its claims against the union.

If the two sides can bury the hatchet and vow to cooperate, that would help overcome the container terminal's "inconsistent and unreliable" reputation — perhaps convincing Hanjin to return or

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THRIVING DESPITE THREATS



Photos by Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

A mink at a farm in Mount Angel, Ore.

Mink industry bolsters security; bills itself as sustainable

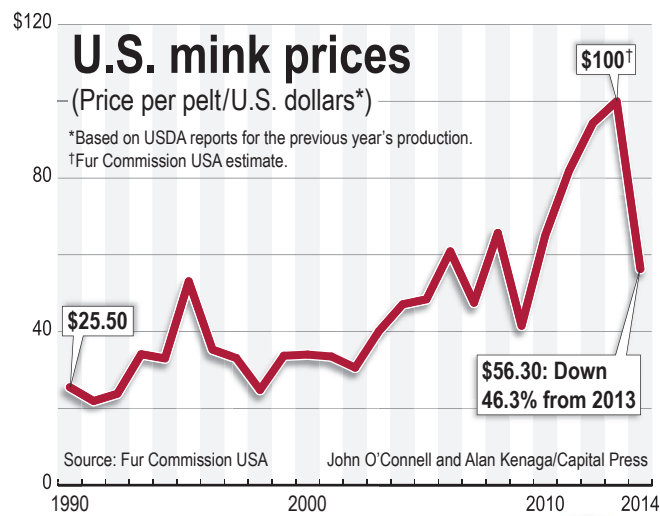
By JOHN O'CONNELL
Capital Press

Kevin Flynn once evaluated U.S. military bases for security breaches and protected convoys from attack.

Now a days, Flynn puts those battleground skills to use for mink farmers, checking their operations for vulnerabilities and advising them how to avoid the threat of attacks by animal rights extremists.

In the five years he's been in charge of mink industry security, working for Oregon-based Fur Commission USA, Flynn's results have prompted the Canadian fur industry to solicit his services, and the European industry is looking into modeling its security program after his approach.

Flynn's pedigree includes 18 years in domestic law enforcement, employment with the U.S. Army military police and U.S. Air Force Security Forces and private security contracting in the Middle East.



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Joe Ruef handles a mink at his farm in Mount Angel, Ore.

Critics discount WHO's glyphosate report

Supporters ask EPA consider herbicide's cancer risk

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Critics say the World Health Organization's conclusion that glyphosate "probably" causes cancer runs counter to what numerous other studies have found and should be withdrawn.

Meanwhile, advocacy groups last week urged the Environmental Protection Agency to consider the re-

Online

WHO report: <http://www.iarc.fr/en/media-centre/iarcnews/pdf/MonographVolume112.pdf>

Video: <http://grist.org/science/watch-stick-figures-explain-what-probably-causes-cancer-even-means/>

port's findings in an upcoming risk assessment of commonly used pesticides.

In a report issued after its March meeting in France, the WHO's International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) said glyphosate, the key ingredient in Monsanto Co.'s Roundup herbicide, is probably carcinogenic to humans and there is

some evidence linking it to non-Hodgkin lymphoma as well.

The finding is the opposite of what other regulatory and research agencies have concluded.

The European Union's Glyphosate Task Force said evaluations done over the past 40 years consistently confirmed glyphosate "poses no unacceptable risk to humans, animals

or the environment." One of the largest epidemiology studies involved approximately 57,000 U.S. farmers who apply herbicides, the task force said in a prepared statement.

The task force said the IARC should withdraw its classification of glyphosate, citing "serious deficiencies in terms of methodological approach."

The German Federal Institute of Risk Assessment, which in 2014 declared glyphosate non-carcinogenic, called the IARC classification a "surprise" and contrary to studies done

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