



“I’m a firm believer that, if we ate everything that was grown or already in the food system, we would have no hunger in the U.S.”

Elise Bauman, executive director of Salem Harvest

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT



Courtesy of Oregon Food Bank

Oregon Food Bank employee Mark Bigley spends five days a week collecting food donations from Portland area retailers.

Farmers confident they’ll beat county GMO ban

Lawsuit claims ordinance is pre-empted by state law

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI and ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Farmers who are challenging the genetically engineered crop ban in Oregon’s Josephine County expect they’ll have no problem winning an injunction against the ordinance.

The county and supporters of the ban, meanwhile, are still deciding how to respond to the lawsuit.

An attorney for the sugar beet farmers, Robert and Shelley Ann White, said state lawmakers have made it clear that no local government other than Jackson County can regulate genetically modified organisms.

“We think the ordinance is completely pre-empted,” said John DiLorenzo, their attorney.

In 2013, the Oregon Legislature passed Senate Bill 863, which holds that the state government has sole authority over restrictions on agricultural seed.

At the time, Jackson County was excluded from the bill because its GMO ban was already on the ballot.

The following year, however, voters in Josephine County passed a similar ordinance prohibiting the cultivation of biotech crops.

The county announced that the ordinance went into effect on Sept. 4, which prompted Robert and Shelley Ann White to file a complaint seeking a declaration that the GMO ban is invalid and a permanent injunction preventing its enforcement.

The couple said they’ve grown genetically engineered sugar beets for five years but are now forced to produce a less lucrative crop in a leased field because of the ordinance.

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Farmers, nonprofits redirect leftover food to help needy

By ZANE SPARLING
Capital Press

BROOKS, Ore. —

Elise Bauman wants to work herself out of a job. The executive director of Salem Harvest, a gleaners organization that picks surplus crops following harvest, believes hunger can be defeated across America if only food didn’t go to waste.

“I’m a firm believer that, if we ate everything that was grown or already in the food system, we would have no hunger in the U.S.,” she said.

When that happens, she won’t need to get up early, as she did on a recent Saturday in Brooks, Ore., to coordinate a corps of volunteers picking blueberries.

Entire families of gleaners were working. Bauman schooled the younger members on what she called the “tickle method” of blueberry harvesting: hands cupped, thumbs out, gently rolling the blueberries off the stem.

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Zane Sparring/Capital Press

Salem Harvest Executive Director Elise Bauman, left, helps her daughter Abigail, 6, pick blueberries at the Beilke Family Farm on Aug. 8.

Rancher, environmentalists make tentative pact on wolves

Dashiell eyes returning sheep to wolf country

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

TUMWATER, Wash. — A rancher whose wolf-imperiled sheep were a flash point between environmentalists and livestock producers last year may get support from conservation groups to return his flock to northeast Washington, a possible partnership that a state wildlife official called “amazing.”

The loose-knit deal was struck Sept. 3 among the state Department of Fish and Wildlife’s 18-member wolf advisory group, which includes environmentalists and the rancher, Dave Dashiell, who estimates he lost more than 300 sheep in 2014 to the Huckleberry wolf pack.

The department outraged wolf advocates by responding to Dashiell’s

losses in 2014 by killing the pack’s breeding female. Still unable to find safe and suitable grazing land, Dashiell moved his flock this year to Central Washington, where he’s spending more than \$10,000 a month on hay, an expense that he says may force him out of the sheep business.

The advisory group’s environmentalists tentatively agreed to publicly support Dashiell’s return to graze in wolf country. In return, Dashiell said he will welcome their involvement in putting together a plan to protect his sheep with non-lethal measures.

After the meeting, Dashiell said he and the environmentalists were risking being criticized by their colleagues for collaborating.

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Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Conflict-resolution consultant Francine Madden, far right standing, taps the shoulder of Stevens County rancher Dave Dashiell during a meeting of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife’s wolf advisory group Sept. 3 in Tumwater. Others pictured are Washington Cattlemen’s Association Executive Vice President Jack Field, standing left, and, sitting from left, WDFW wolf policy coordinator Donny Martorello and Wolf Haven International Executive Director Diane Gallegos. The advisory group agreed to consider supporting Dashiell returning his wolf-ravaged sheep flock to northeast Washington.



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