

# Farmer announces expansion of brewery in Boardman

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

By his own description, Eastern Oregon farmer Craig Coleman doesn't like to get bored. So in addition to growing blueberries, hay, field corn and cut flowers — not to mention renting ground to a potato farmer — he and several partners decided to open a brewery in Boardman.

"Why not?" he said. "The way I look at things is, if we can do one, why not do 10?"

Ordnance Brewing, named for the ghost town across the highway from the defunct Umatilla Chemical Depot that once housed the deadly agents used in chemical weapons, opened for business around Halloween 2014 and this month announced a major expansion.

The brewery, in the Port of Morrow, will jump production from seven barrels per brewing cycle to 50. For perspective, one barrel equals 31 gallons. The company now produces two or three brews per week, head brewer Logan Mayfield said. Production eventually will increase to six or eight brews per day, he said.

The company will focus on producing four types of beer in cans and bottles: A Rye Pale Ale; an India Pale Ale called FMJ, for Full Metal Jacket; Rivercrest Kolsch, a German-style light lager; and an English-style ale called "Old Craig," named after Coleman, the farmer. Ordnance will make seasonal beers as well. Mayfield, the brewer, jokingly described some of the company's offerings as "lawnmower beer," meaning the type you'd drink after yard work.

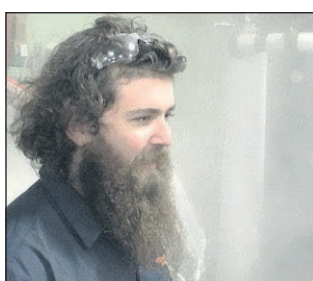
"I believe we have a very solid product," said Coleman. "Is it the greatest beer in the world? Probably not, but we make good beer."

Coleman is Ordnance's manager; other partners keep



Courtesy of Ordnance Brewing

The Oregon brewery's Kolsch, a lighter German-style lager, will be among its offerings as a result of a major expansion.



Courtesy of Ordnance Brewing

Head brewer Logan Mayfield oversees a production expansion at Ordnance Brewing in Boardman, Ore. The managing partner is area farmer Craig Coleman.

the books, own the brewery building, oversee taphouses that serve the company's beer and have other roles. Coleman hired Mayfield, originally from Ashland, to do the brewing.

Coleman previously farmed with his extended family in the Willamette Valley, but moved to Eastern Oregon to do something different.

"It was time for a change,"

he said. "The business was maturing and it's not as fun as when your hair is on fire."

He and partners first opened a couple taphouses that served beer, then decided to up their game and make beer themselves.

Ordnance uses some of Coleman's blueberries in one of its beers, and buys hops from the Willamette Valley and barley from Idaho. Coleman and Mayfield said they're looking to use more local ingredients as the business develops.

In its promotional material, Ordnance describes itself as "smack dab in a beer desert," with very few other breweries operating between Hood River and Pendleton.

An industry group, Oregon Craft Beer, said the state had 234 breweries in 72 cities as of July 2015. Of those, 91 are in the Portland area, which some in the industry have taken to calling "Beervana."

# Coeur d'Alene haystack arson under investigation

200-ton stack completely destroyed, inspector says

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

Fire and police officials are investigating as arson the fire that destroyed an alfalfa haystack and damaged another in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

The fire was reported at about 5:15 a.m. Jan. 10, said Bobby Gonder, fire inspector for the City of Coeur d'Alene Fire Department and a certified fire investigator. The investigation is continuing.

Evidence indicates "human-caused arson," Gonder said.

One 200-ton haystack is destroyed. Gonder said the farmer estimated the damage at about \$38,000.

A second haystack was not "lit off," but police found evidence of attempts to set it on fire, Gonder said. Smoke damaged the second stack.

"We won't know until the fire is completely out and we can start tearing that stack apart to see how deep that smoke damage goes," Gonder said.

The fire was still burning the next day. The fire department cordoned off the fire with a chain-link fence.

"It collapsed inside itself, so the fire's not going to get out from where it's at," Gonder said. "We still have 1.5- to 2-foot flame heights."

Haystack arson cases are rare in Coeur d'Alene. This is Gonder's first case in the seven years he's been an investigator.

Gonder advises farmers to use surveillance cameras around their haystacks, if possible.

"That helps us immensely," he said. "We can retrieve



Courtesy Coeur d'Alene Fire Department

A 200-ton haystack burns Jan. 10 in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Fire investigators and police are seeking information from the public about the arson, says investigator Bobby Gonder.

that video footage and we can chase down those leads. If we have it on video, somebody actually putting an ignition source to the hay, that's arson right there. That's a felony. This is such a small, tight-knit community, somebody will know something."

The departments are asking the public for assistance in

the case.

"If anybody has any information, no matter how good or silly it may sound, or far-fetched, please call," Gonder said. "We take every lead seriously. We will track down every lead until we exhaust all resources."

To contact Gonder, call 208-769-2245.

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# R-CALF calls for investigation of packers, traders

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS  
Capital Press

R-CALF USA is calling on the Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate the collapse in cattle prices last fall and potential antitrust and anticompetitive conduct by dominant meatpackers and certain traders.

Against widely held predictions of strong cattle prices for 2015 by market analysts and USDA, "cattle prices collapsed farther and faster than during any time in history" in the latter part of 2015, the organization wrote in its request.

In addition, the R-Calf asserts that unprecedented volatility in the cattle futures market rendered it useless for price discovery, benefiting the dominant meatpackers.

R-CALF cited a \$41.35 per hundredweight decline in the five-market fed steer price in December compared with the first half of 2015, correlating to a nearly \$517 per head loss at the feedlot. It also stated the downward trajectory of cattle prices in the latter part of 2015 can't be correlated with market fundamentals that included low-

er beef production and higher retail beef demand in the first three quarters of the year.

R-CALF's nine-page request to investigate 13 specific issues, including whether there are structural problems in the U.S. cattle market that contributed to the price collapse and whether the meatpackers or other major market participants engaged in unlawful conduct that adversely influenced cattle futures and cash markets.

R-CALF's allegations put the industry right back to where it was five to six years ago when the Grain Inspection, Packers & Stockyards Administration did a wholesale investigation of alleged anti-competitive practices, said John Nalivka, meat industry analyst and owner of Sterling Marketing, Vale, Ore.

"This issue's been decided more than once," with no evidence of structure or pricing harming competitive markets, he said. He understands the frustration. Prices fell hard last fall and suddenly the market seemed to be falling apart after analysts had said prices should be strong, he said.

But there was a lot at play.

Cattle weights were high, supply was increasing, demand was slowing and there was a lot of pork and chicken in the market, he said.

"I don't think packers were to blame for that. Demand went into a slump, and wholesale beef prices also came down," he said.

With record prices in 2014 and the first half of 2015, everybody had "very high" expectations that market would continue, he said.

While beef production was down year over year in the first three quarters of 2015, it was up about 1 percent in the fourth quarter and demand slipped. Packer margins averaged \$42 a head in the fourth quarter ranging from a low of \$10 to a high of \$115, he said.

Nalivka said the allegations are largely based on the cash market, but most cattle are bought on a forward price formula for branded product that meets customers' needs for supply, timing and certain specifications.

"If everybody thinks these packers are pushing wheel barrels of money to the bank, I'd go buy Tyson stock," he said.



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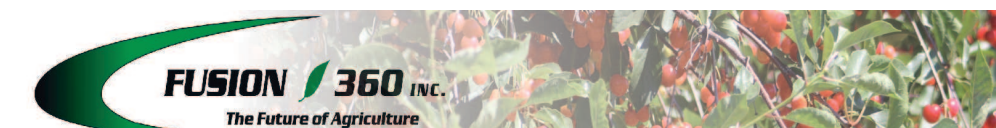
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