

Blueberry exports to Japan decrease

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

PORTLAND — Blueberry exports to Japan, a major destination for the crop, have decreased in recent years but experts aren't alarmed about the market's future.

While the total amount of frozen and fresh blueberry shipments to Japan has dropped off, the decrease probably isn't indicative of a long-term downward trend and the nation is expected to remain a top consumer, experts say.

"We're not discouraged by it," said Tom Payne, a market development consultant for the U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council.

Exports of frozen blueberries, the most common form of the crop shipped to Japan, were on the rise until hitting \$13.6 million in value in 2013,

according to USDA. After that, shipments fell 6 percent in 2014 and were on track to decrease 11 percent in 2015.

Similarly, exports of fresh cultivated blueberries to Japan topped \$6 million in 2011 and 2012 but fell to roughly \$5 million in 2013 and 2014, and shipments were trending lower through most of last year.

The softening of the Japanese market isn't caused by shifting consumer tastes, but is linked to economic problems in the wake of the country's catastrophic earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in 2011, Payne said during the annual Oregon Blueberry Conference in Portland.

Since then, the dollar has gained in value significantly against the Japanese yen, which has reduced the buying power of major retailers in that nation, he said.

A U.S. dollar was trading



Dan Wheat/Capital Press file

Blueberries are picked at Blueberry Hills Farms in Manson, Wash., last summer. Though blueberry exports to Japan have decreased during the past few years, experts say they will eventually pick up.

in the range of 80 Japanese yen during 2011 and 2012, but spiked above 120 yen in 2015, an increase of roughly 50 percent.

Japan was an important "ready to go" market for U.S. blueberries, with consumers

who have high disposable incomes and are receptive to positive health messages about the fruit, said Jeff Malensky, vice president of international sales at the Oregon Berry Packing Co.

As the market matures, it's

natural that growth will slow down or flatten, he said.

Meanwhile, exports to nearby South Korea have exploded and the country appears to be the "new Japan," Payne said.

Frozen blueberry exports to South Korea more than doubled from 2011 to 2014, from \$7.5 million to \$16 million, and were in line to continue increasing in 2015.

The value of fresh blueberry shipments to that nation surged from less than \$1 million in 2011 to nearly \$2 million in 2014, and were on track to hit \$3 million last year.

Payne said he's optimistic about the overall trajectory of blueberry exports, which now represent about 15 percent of the U.S. crop and have grown by one-third in volume since 2010.

Consumption of blueberries around the world will have

to increase to keep pace with production.

Between 2010 and 2014, global blueberry production grew 65 percent, to about 1.24 billion pounds, said Dave Brazelton, founder of Fall Creek Farm & Nursery.

Blueberry production is projected to grow 500 million pounds, to 1.7 billion, by 2019, he said.

Meanwhile, in recent years more frozen blueberries are going into storage than are coming out in the U.S., which does not bode well for prices received by farmers, said John Shelford, president of the Shelford Associates market consulting firm.

While the industry can't expect to clear out its inventories completely, roughly one-fourth of frozen U.S. blueberries are now left unconsumed from year to year, Shelford said.

Onion growers happier with final FDA safety rules

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

ONTARIO, Ore. — There is some good news but a few headaches associated with the FDA's final produce safety rule, Idaho and Oregon onion growers were told Feb. 2 during their annual joint meeting.

The good news? "It shouldn't interfere with your ability to irrigate your onions," Oregon State University researcher Stuart Reitz said during the 56th annual meeting of the Malheur County and Idaho onion growers' associations.

That's great news, he said, considering the FDA's initial proposed produce safety rule

would have made it extremely difficult to grow onions in the Treasure Valley area, where most farmers use surface water that mostly won't meet the rule's new agricultural water standards.

FDA's initial proposal would have required produce growers whose irrigation water exceeds certain thresholds for bacteria to immediately stop using it. That would have made it impossible for most people in the valley to grow onions, industry leaders have said.

The final rule, released Nov. 27, requires growers whose water exceeds those minimum standards to adopt a mitigation strategy as soon as practicable



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Members of the Idaho and Oregon onion industries talk during the 56th annual meeting of the Malheur County and Idaho onion growers' associations, Feb. 2 in Ontario, Ore. Growers were told the FDA's final produce safety rule won't affect their ability to irrigate onions.

but no later than the following year.

"This is the real sea change from what FDA had originally

proposed in 2013," Reitz said. "We are in a better situation than we were with the initial ... rules that were proposed."

The final rule allows growers whose water exceeds the standards to comply if they can show that bacteria dies off at a certain rate in the field.

The bulb onions grown in this region are left in the field to cure for seven to 10 days and OSU researchers in Ontario have conducted field trials that show bacteria dies off quickly in those fields.

This die-off provision was also not included in the agency's original proposal and onion growers were told the input they provided FDA on its original proposal was responsible for the favorable changes.

"If everybody didn't step up like that, this rule would be a lot

different than it is today," said Idaho Onion Growers Association President Clinton Wissel.

Produce farmers with \$25,000 to \$250,000 in sales will have to start complying with the new produce rule in January 2020, growers with \$250,000-\$500,000 in sales have until January 2019 and growers with more than \$500,000 in sales have until January 2018.

Growers who use surface water to irrigate their produce have to take an initial 20 water samples over a two-year period to create a water quality profile, and an additional five samples a year after that, recalculating their profile annually based on the most recent 20 samples.

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE

State of Oregon Department of Forestry

OF APPROXIMATELY 115 ACRES OF IMPROVED PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE D.L. PHIPPS FOREST NURSERY

Location: D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery 2424 Wells Road
Elkton, Oregon 97436

Description:

Parcel No. 1 (Elkton Nursery): Beginning at a point on the property line between Norman L. Compton and Keith Kesterson 1265.6 feet North and 957.0 feet West of the one-quarter corner common to Sections 1 and 12, Township 23 South, Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian; thence South 18° 14' West 2436.7 feet along the Keith Kesterson property line; thence North 57° 30' West 1099.8 feet; North 65° 45' West 1122.0 feet; North 63° 45' West 330.0 feet; North 73° West 48.8 feet to a point on the Howard F. Carnes Property line; thence North 30° 54' East 1451.8 feet along the Howard F. Carnes property line; thence North 84° 29' East 1068.0 feet; South 48° 56' East 572.2 feet; North 18° 14' East 550.6 feet; South 58° 34' East 754.0 feet to the point of beginning, all in Douglas County, Oregon.

Parcel No. 2 (Road to Elkton Nursery): Beginning at a point 25 feet South of the center of the Existing County Road No. 203, said point being 532.7 feet North and 1773.0 feet East of the Northeast corner of the William F. Bay Donation Land Claim No. 38; Township 23 South Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian, thence along the center line of a road right of way 50 feet in width South 26° 01' West 639.5 feet; South 11° 57' East 83.5 feet; South 4° 29' East 365.7 feet; South 39° 52' East 446.3 feet; South 22° 34' East 342.8 feet; South 49° 33' East 80.9 feet; South 25° 10' East 449.5 feet; South 64° 10' East 72.4 feet; South 41° 15' East 183.7 feet; South 75° 46' East 80.0 feet; South 22° 52' West 71.7 feet; North 89° 24' East 97.7 feet; South 72° 19' East 71.8 feet; South 36° 44' East 67.9 feet; South 45° 30' West 78.2 feet; South 69° 26' West 99.8 feet; South 0° 08' East 70.5 feet; South 12° 45' East 289.2 feet; South 12° 36' East 323.0 feet; South 72° 19' East 71.8 feet; thence along a 70 foot right of way North 67° 27' East 66.0 feet; South 30° 19' West 192.3 feet; thence North 56° 16' East 82.0 feet; South 19° 13' West 81.8 feet; South 87° 17' East 48.4 feet; South 36° 39' East 222.7 feet; South 13° 48' West 71.3 feet to a point on the North boundary of the proposed Elkton Nursery site 1370.5 feet North and 1128.8 feet South of the one-quarter corner common to Sections 1 and 12, Township 23 South, Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian, all in Douglas County, Oregon.

Zoning: Exclusive Farm Use (EFU)

Sale:

This property is owned in Fee Simple by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Price:

Minimum asking price for the entire property in "As Is" condition is One Million Three Hundred Sixty Five Thousand dollars (USD \$1,365,000).

Compliance with RFP:

All Proposals must comply with a Request for Proposal issued by ODF. A copy of the RFP can be obtained from:

Oregon Department of Forestry Administrative Services Program

Facilities Section - Bldg. "F"

2600 State Street

Salem Oregon 97310

Attn: D. Chris Stewart, P.E.

Facilities Director

Phone: (503) 945-7375

Public Commentary:

The Public is invited to comment on the values of this property to the people of the State of Oregon; including its values for fish and wildlife habitat and public access to other property in accordance with OAR 125-045-215(7). All such comments must be in writing and sent to the Submittal Address described below. Comments are due no later than 3 PM (Pacific Time), Monday, March 7, 2016.

Deadline:

Proposals must be in writing and signed by a person authorized on behalf of the Offeror in accordance with 125-045-0235(6), and received at the following address by no later than 3 PM (Pacific Time), Monday, March 7, 2016.

D.L. Phipps Nursery Proposal

Oregon Department of Forestry

Facilities Section - Bldg. "F"

2600 State Street

Salem Oregon 97310

Attn: D. Chris Stewart, Facilities Director

Phone: (503) 945-7375

*Reservation of Rights by ODF: Pursuant to ORS 270.130; ODF reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

Pursuant to OAR 125-045-0235(3)(e): Terminal Disposition of this State Real Property Interest may be subject to a Right of First Refusal.

legal-6-3-4/#4

Groups seek public, private dollars for farmworker housing

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

YAKIMA, Wash. — The Washington Growers League is talking to growers about private financing to build more seasonal farmworker housing in Central Washington.

State funding for seasonal farmworker housing is limited to \$6 million per organization per biennium and that doesn't go far, Mike Gempler, League executive director, said at the organization's annual meeting in Yakima on Jan. 26.

"We are very interested in a model that allows growers to make an investment and own a right to rent a certain number of beds, sort of on a time-share model," Gempler said.

Grower investments along with league bank loans would pay for development, and bed

rent would pay operational costs, he said.

"We are working with more than one group of growers interested in this. We haven't quite gotten there yet, but when people look at all the alternatives this may be attractive to a number of companies," Gempler said.

Later, he said a lot of growers don't have the management structure or scale to build and manage housing. But even some large companies that are able don't want to, he said, because they would rather concentrate on growing fruit.

Growers are required to provide housing for H-2A visa foreign guestworkers but growers relying on domestic workers are interested in housing to attract employees, he said.

The state Department of Commerce awarded a \$3 million grant to the Growers League on Dec. 3 to build a 120-bed migrant farmworker housing facility in Mattawa. At that time, Gempler said he hoped to break ground soon and maybe have the facility ready for occupancy by apple harvest in the fall of 2016.

Now, he says ground-breaking is more likely by late this spring with occupancy by spring of 2017. Land purchases, street improvements and other aspects take time, he said.

The league is applying for another \$3 million from the Department of Commerce to build a second phase at Mattawa. It would be for 200 beds with ground-breaking a year from now and occupancy by fall of 2017 or spring of 2018.

In December, WAFLA, for-

merly known as the Washington Farm Labor Association in Olympia, was working with a commercial developer in Yakima to provide housing for 200 seasonal farmworkers. That effort was not cost effective so now WAFLA will apply for state Department of Commerce funding, said Dan Fazio, WAFLA director.

WAFLA is looking at sites in Yakima, Royal City and Okanogan. WAFLA opened a 96-bed facility near Mesa in 2011. WAFLA continues to explore private funding and doesn't view itself as being in competition with the league, Fazio said.

"Housing is a scarce resource. Whichever one of us can provide it is great. We sent three-quarters of their business to them in Cashmere," he said.

Deal boosts effort to remove 4 Klamath River dams

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — An agreement by California, Oregon and the federal government on Tuesday boosted efforts to remove four dams in the Pacific Northwest despite opposition in Congress.

Officials from those two

states and the federal government committed in the deal to pressing ahead on plans to remove the four hydroelectric dams on the lower Klamath River, which runs through Oregon to California.

Local tribes and other op-

ponents of the dams say the structures block fish from spawning grounds and damage habitat while generating comparatively little hydroelectricity.

The agreement to remove the dams had been part of a

yearslong effort to end disputes among tribes, wildlife advocates and farmers and ranchers over use of the river and its water. The resolution had been put in peril when congressional Republicans opposed to the dam removal had declined to formally authorize the project.

The agreements on managing the Klamath River Basin were the result of "years of hard work and collaboration," Interior Secretary Sally Jewell said in a statement Tuesday. "We can't let that local vision go unfulfilled."

Tuesday's agreement means the two states, the federal government and more than 40 other parties involved in the negotiation will stick to plans to decommission and remove the dams, using existing funding, despite the lack of congressional support, officials said.

LEGAL

PURSUANT TO ORS CHAPTER 87 Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 2/9/2016. The sale will be held at 10:00 am by NORTHWEST WATERCRAFT 580 19TH ST SE #B, SALEM, OR 2003 YAMAHA VX CRUISER SKI VIN = YAMA2556E303

Amount due on lien \$2,143.57 Reputed owner(s) Universal Auto Sales Brandon Boatwright

Legal-5-2-1/#4

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