

# U.S. surpasses Germany in hop production

**By DAN WHEAT**  
Capital Press

MOXEE, Wash. — For only the third time in the past 10 years, the United States bested Germany to lead the world in hop production last year, according to a final 2015 report by the Hop Growers of America.

The U.S. — overwhelmingly Washington, Oregon and Idaho — produced 80.2 million pounds of hops, which was 42 percent of the world production, compared to Germany at 62.2 million pounds and 33 percent, according to the report.

The U.S. topped Germany in 2013 and 2009, but otherwise Germany has led since 2006. Taken as a whole, Europe always produces about half the world's hops. After Europe and the U.S., China is



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

A worker fastens trellis wire to poles about 15 feet above the ground for a new hop planting at a farm between Prosser and Benton City, Wash., last March. The planting was postponed because of drought. Fields like this will be planted this year.

the other main producer, ranging from 6 to 16 percent.

Oil from hop cones is used for flavoring and stabilizing beer.

2015 was a tough year be-

cause of drought in Europe, where rain, not irrigation, mostly waters the crop, said Ann George, executive director of Hop Growers of America and the Washington Hop

Commission. It was a difficult year for aroma varieties in Washington's Yakima Valley because of drought and extreme heat early in the growing season during critical cone development, she said.

Total world hop production was 190.4 million pounds in 2015, down from 208.1 million in 2014 but greater than 178.4 million in 2013. The record in the past 10 years was 245 million pounds in 2008.

Lower production in 2015 means a deficit in alpha hops which will be made up by inventories from past years, George said.

With Yakima Basin water reservoirs at 117 percent of normal and Washington's snowpack at 109 percent of normal, more water for irrigation is anticipated along with higher yields and more acreage going

into production, she said.

"The unusually high temperatures experienced this past summer were unprecedented and we do not anticipate a repeat of an early and persistent heat wave," George said.

Some Yakima Valley growers held off on new plantings last spring because of drought but likely will resume normal plantings this spring, said Jaki Brophy, communications director of Hop Growers of America.

Craft brewery demand for aroma varieties of hops continues to drive demand and India pale ale continues to be the clear beer style favorite, with two times the volume in 2015 over 2011, Brophy said.

"Going through our statistics, it is clear that growers are putting more hops in the ground to meet the needs of both domestic and internation-

al brewers," George said.

It was promising, she said, that the Brewers Association reported, at the recent Hop Growers of America national convention, that about 95 percent of its members are contracting their hop supply.

The more contracts growers and merchants have, the better they can serve domestic and global brewers, and it's "a pretty big gamble" for brewers to rely on the spot market, she said.

For the second straight year, the Hop Growers of America report includes acreage harvested outside the Pacific Northwest. Michigan leads at 320 acres, New York has 250, Wisconsin 170, Colorado 125 and California has 85 acres.

Washington harvested 32,158 acres of hops in 2015, Oregon 6,612 acres and Idaho 4,863 acres.

## Senate resolutions would bless water agreement, direct recharge

**By SEAN ELLIS**  
Capital Press

BOISE — A concurrent resolution introduced in the Idaho Senate would enable legislators to bless the landmark 2015 settlement agreement between groundwater pumpers and surface water users in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

Another related resolution would direct the Idaho Water Resources Board to begin developing in earnest the capacity needed for the state to recharge 250,000 acre-feet of water into the aquifer annually, which is a major part of the agreement.

A third resolution encourages the water board to address declining groundwater levels in the state's other aquifers.



Courtesy of Idaho Department of Water Resources

Water flows through the new Milepost 28 bypass around a hydro plant within the Milner-Gooding Canal, built to increase the state's aquifer recharge capacity. A concurrent resolution introduced in the Idaho Senate would enable legislators to provide their blessing to the 2015 settlement agreement between groundwater pumpers and surface water users in the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer.

and Senate Concurrent Resolution 135 allows lawmakers to be educated about the situation and "to give their blessing to the (agreement)," Bair said.

"This resolution recognizes that the state supports the goal of the settlement agreement to stabilize and reverse the trend of declining ESPA water levels," the resolution states. "This settlement will resolve the multiple water delivery calls that have led to protracted litigation and economic uncertainty for all water users in the upper Snake River basin."

The agreement includes the state's promise to inject 250,000 acre-feet of recharge water into the aquifer annually and SCR 136 directs the water

board to begin developing in earnest the capacity to achieve that goal.

"It gives the participants in the ... agreement a level of comfort that the legislature is directing the (Idaho Department of Water Resources) and the water board to do everything in their power to recharge 250,000 acre-feet of water into the aquifer," Bair said.

Addressing the resolutions, Lt. Gov. Brad Little told Food Producers of Idaho members Feb. 3 that there is an aggressive water plan to ensure the agreement stands and participants and the state can't take their foot off of it because of how important the ESPA is for agriculture.

## Drought disaster declarations pay dividends for Idaho ranchers

**By JOHN O'CONNELL**  
Capital Press

POCATELLO, Idaho — Twin Falls County rancher Jared Brackett had to sell some cows and lease extra pasture to cope with drought-related forage shortages last spring.

But he knows help is on the way to cover a portion of his drought losses, thanks to federal programs that were triggered when Idaho counties declared drought emergencies.

According to the federal Farm Service Agency for Idaho, the Livestock Forage Program, which will help Brackett, has been the "big ticket item" lately among programs available to aid producers affected by drought. FSA paid Idaho ranchers \$21 million to offset forage losses in FY 2015, and officials say they're on pace to eclipse that amount in FY 2016, for losses that occurred last season but are still being claimed.

Last season, all but two Idaho counties were classified as being in severe drought, making them eligible for federal assistance and low-interest loans. No Idaho counties currently remain in severe drought status.

Brackett also took advantage of a drought-emergency option allowing producers to defer tax payments.

"When we have a bad



Samson

drought, especially like we were in last spring, it's important the counties get declared," Brackett said, adding there are several programs for crops but few for livestock. "Most ranchers are pretty independent. We don't take a lot of handouts, and it's not like it covers 100 percent of our costs, but it helps in tighter years."

The deadline for payments in the current fiscal year was Jan. 31, but producers can apply for back losses in the next payment cycle.

Bingham County rancher Chris Dalley claimed forage assistance in FY 2015 for 2014 losses. The funding helped him to buy bred heifers to replace cows that failed to breed due to drought stress, and it was the first time in several years he'd taken an emergency payment.

"Those drought-relief programs help a bunch," he said.

Idaho ranchers also received \$250,000 in FY 2015 from the Livestock Indemnity Program, which helps cover livestock deaths due to adverse weather or attacks by federally reintroduced animals. They received \$500,000 in emergency loans, which must be repaid with 1.75 percent interest.

Demand for livestock emergency programs has also been heavy nationally, where \$2 billion was budgeted to last the life of the Farm Bill, but \$6 billion has already been paid, said Idaho FSA Executive Director Mark Samson.

Samson credits the emergency programs with keeping prices steady by enabling growers to avoid culling their herds.

"It has been very beneficial to the cattle industry overall in the U.S. and in Idaho," Samson said.

Samson said the new Grasslands Conservation Reserve Program should help producers facing forage shortages in the future. It offers land owners payments for planting property in grasses but allows them to graze, under a specialized plan developed by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The enrollment deadline is Feb. 27, though payment rates are still being established. Idaho has 100,000 open acres before reaching its CRP cap.

During FY 2015, Samson said FSA paid \$415 million to Idaho farmers and ranchers, including roughly \$240 million in sugar loans, \$98 million on other loan programs, \$24 million on disaster programs, \$37 million on conservation programs and \$15 million on commodity payments, mostly for corn.

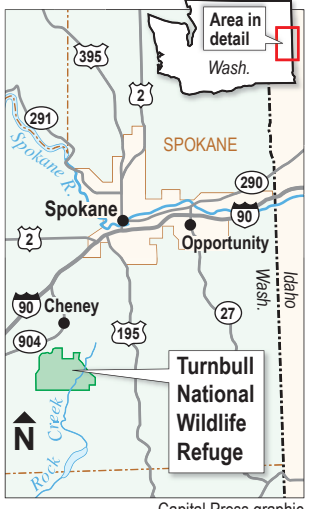
## Turnbull refuge reopens after closure

**By MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

A wildlife refuge near Cheney, Wash., and several others around the West were closed over the weekend due to an "abundance of caution" about the possibility of protests, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman says.

Turnbull National Wildlife Refuge was closed Feb. 6-7.

"Given the situation in Eastern Oregon, we felt it might be appropriate to close Turnbull out of an abundance of caution," Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Miel Corbett said. "There were no specific threats to Turnbull or to other refuges in the area, but we simply know the situation in Eastern Oregon has sparked some strong feelings in the public. We just wanted to be sure we were appropriately



Capital Press graphic

taking care of the public's safety and the safety of our employees."

Several refuges in Nevada were also closed. Corbett said there were no specific threats there, either.

Other refuges remained open. Corbett said she did not know how the agency decided which refuges to keep

open and which to close.

Spokane County Sheriff Ozzie Knezovich said he recently communicated with an individual via email who was calling for a protest at Turnbull, but he doesn't think it was a factor in the closure.

Knezovich said his office is watching how things progress in Malheur County, Ore..

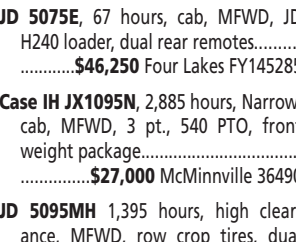
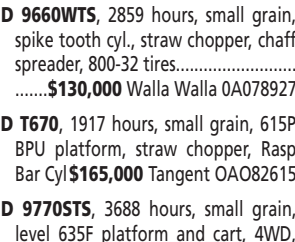
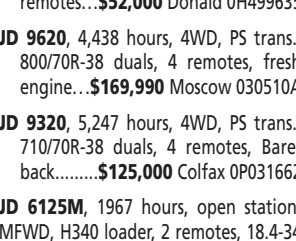
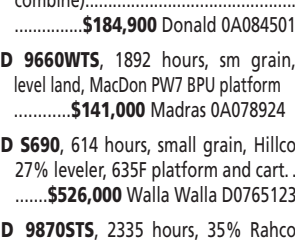
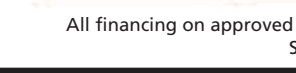
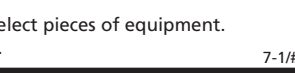
"We are aware there has been a national call from the Oregon ranch area to try to replicate this throughout the United States, so we're keeping our eyes open," he said.

Corbett said there were no protests at the refuges, but there have been protests in Spokane, Olympia and Burns, Ore.

"I believe the refuge will continue to be open," she said. Corbett said she is unaware of any plans for future closures.

## Pre-Season Savings!

3 Years @ 0% **-OR-** 5 Years @ 0.9%<sup>OAC</sup>

| TRACTORS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | COMBINES                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <p><b>JD 8770</b>, 7369 hours, 4WD, 3pt., PTO, 24 spd, Trelleborg 850/55R-42 duals, 3 remotes...<b>\$75,000</b> Tangent OH001367</p>                                    |  <p><b>JD 9760STS</b>, 3,270 hours 35% Rahco leveler, duals, PRWD, 630R platform with cart...<b>\$284,000</b> Colfax 05721011</p>                         |
|  <p><b>JD 5075E</b>, 67 hours, cab, MFWD, JD H240 loader, dual rear remotes...<b>\$46,250</b> Four Lakes FY145285</p>                                                    |  <p><b>JD 9660WTS</b>, 2859 hours, small grain, spike tooth cyl., straw chopper, chaff spreader, 800-32 tires...<b>\$130,000</b> Walla Walla OA078927</p> |
|  <p><b>Case IH JX1095N</b>, 2,885 hours, Narrow, cab, MFWD, 3 pt., 540 PTO, front weight package...<b>\$27,000</b> McMinnville 36490</p>                                 |  <p><b>JD T670</b>, 1917 hours, small grain, 615P BPU platform, PS trans, dual PTO, 16.9-38 singles...<b>\$63,250</b> Madras EO9936</p>                   |
|  <p><b>JD 5095MH</b>, 1,395 hours, high clearance, MFWD, row crop tires, dual spd. PTO...<b>\$42,000</b> Gresham 5M280001</p>                                            |  <p><b>JD 9770STS</b>, 3688 hours, small grain, level 635F platform and cart, 4WD, 520-42 duals...<b>\$189,000</b> Colfax AO736737</p>                    |
|  <p><b>JD 6520L</b>, 7,845 hours, low profile cab, PQ trans., MFWD, IVT trans., 2 remotes...<b>\$52,000</b> Donald OH496355</p>                                          |  <p><b>JD J670</b>, 1127 hours, small grain, MacDon BPU platform (grass seed combine)...<b>\$184,900</b> Donald OA084501</p>                              |
|  <p><b>JD 9620</b>, 4,438 hours, 4WD, PS trans., 800/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, fresh engine...<b>\$169,990</b> Moscow O30510A</p>                                         |  <p><b>JD 9660WTS</b>, 1892 hours, sm grain, level land, MacDon PW7 BPU platform...<b>\$141,000</b> Madras OA078924</p>                                   |
|  <p><b>JD 9320</b>, 5,247 hours, 4WD, PS trans., 710/70R-38 duals, 4 remotes, Bareback...<b>\$125,000</b> Colfax OP031662</p>                                            |  <p><b>JD S690</b>, 614 hours, small grain, Hillico 27% leveler, 635F platform and cart...<b>\$526,000</b> Walla Walla DO765123</p>                       |
|  <p><b>JD 6125M</b>, 1967 hours, open station, MFWD, H340 loader, 2 remotes, 18.4-34 rear tires...<b>\$72,000</b> Donald DA778051</p>                                    |  <p><b>JD 9870STS</b>, 2335 hours, 35% Rahco leveler, 4WD, 635F platform with cart...<b>\$289,000</b> Colfax 05730229</p>                                 |
|  <p><b>JD 4960</b>, 10,700 hours, cab, MFWD, PS trans., 4 remotes, 520-42 duals...<b>\$46,000</b> Hillsboro OP001596</p>                                                 |  <p><b>JD S660</b>, 129 hours, VariStream rotor, small grain, prem cab, G53 equipped, Autotrack ready...<b>\$359,900</b> Donald 765336</p>                |
|  <p><b>JD 9300</b>, 9,631 hours, 4WD, 24 spd. trans., 3 pt., No PTO, 4 remotes...<b>\$59,900</b> McMinnville 40643</p>                                                   |  <p><b>JD 9650STS</b>, 3343 hours, small grain, 914P BPU platform (grass seed combine) <b>\$87,000</b> Tangent 05685747</p>                               |
|  <p><b>JD 8320</b>, 6,588 hours, cab, MFWD, PS trans., 4 remotes. 480-46 duals, dual PTO. <b>\$88,235</b> McMinnville OP036631</p>                                       |  <p><b>JD S670</b>, 1045 hours, small grain, Hillico 28% leveler, Prodrive, 24.5-32 tires <b>\$400,000</b> Moscow CO755421</p>                            |
|  <p><b>Case IH Puma 125</b>, 1,927 hours, Prem. cab, MFWD, IVT trans., 3 remotes, single rear tires...<b>\$63,900</b> Hillsboro L11706</p>                               |  <p><b>JD 9650STS</b>, 3112 hours, sm grain, 18% Hillico leveler, grass seed combine, 914P BPU...<b>\$118,000</b> Salem OS700523</p>                      |
|  <p><b>JCB 8250</b>, 1050 hours, Fastrac, 4WD, F&amp;R 3 pt. and PTO, CVT trans., 4 rear remotes, 3 front. <b>Price just lowered to \$164,800</b> Hillsboro, 1139231</p> |  <p><b>JD 4430</b>, 11,394 hours, cab, 2WD, Quad Range, dual spd. PTO, 2 remotes...<b>\$15,500</b> Madras H008820R</p>                                     |



**JOHN DEERE**



**PAPE MACHINERY**

21 Ag & Turf locations in Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Northern California.

**papemachinery.com**

**541-681-5363**

All financing on approved credit. Financing special applies only to select pieces of equipment. See dealer for details and qualifying units.

7-1/MS