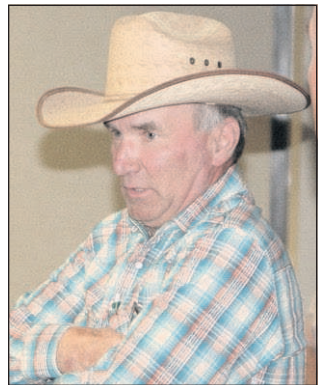


# BRIDGING THE URBAN-RURAL GAP



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press  
Hunters, Wash., rancher Dave Dashiell discusses his frustrations with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's compensation process July 7 during the wolf advisory group meeting in Spokane Valley, Wash.

## The next Portland mayor says he can be an advocate for Oregon agriculture

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

**P**ORTLAND — Love it or despise it, this quirky city can make or break the fortunes of Oregon's farmers and ranchers.

With 610,000 people living within the city limits, and 1.7 million in the three counties that make up the greater metro area, Portland is the chief consumer, shipper, marketer and brander of the state's agricultural production.



**Edward "Ted" Wheeler**

- **Age:** 53
- **Political party:** Democrat
- **Residence:** Southwest Portland, Ore.
- **Family:** Wife, Katrina, and daughter
- **Education:** Bachelor's in economics, Stanford; MBA, Columbia University; MA in public policy, Harvard University
- **Professional career:** Author; employee, Bank of America and Copper Mountain Trust; lecturer, Northeastern University; small business owner
- **Political career:** Multnomah County Commissioner, 2007-10; Treasurer, State of Oregon, 2010-present; Mayor-elect, City of Portland, 2016
- **Volunteer work:** Neighborhood House, Oregon Sports Authority, Portland Mountain Rescue, Boy Scouts of America

Sources: tedwheeler.com; votesmart.org

Capital Press graphic

Katy Coba, director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, said Wheeler has a "very strong affinity" for Oregon ag because of his background.

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## Dear Mr. Mayor ...

### Questions, observations and advice from rural Oregon

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

**S**ome political observers regard Portland Mayor-elect Ted Wheeler as Oregon's governor-in-waiting.

He was a Multnomah County commissioner before being appointed state treasurer in 2010 upon the death of Ben Westlund, then won election as treasurer in his own right in 2012.

He's literally written a book on good government. He holds an economics degree from Stanford, an mas-

ter of business administration degree from Columbia and a master's degree in public policy from Harvard. He has experience in private business.

He turns 54 at the end of August, is married and has a daughter, and comes across as intelligent, affable and fit — he climbed Mount Everest in 2002 and once did a snowshoe trek to the North Pole.

The Capital Press asked a sampling of producers and others involved in agriculture for their take on Wheeler:



**"He likely knows as much about farming/ranching as I know about running Portland. We should respect each other's knowledge."**

— Todd Nash, Wallowa County rancher, wolf issue chair for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association



**"For fun, I'd ask him if he's interested in touring some farms. I've toured Portland, but I'd certainly not give him advice on how to do his job. I just like to visit."**

— Molly Pearmine McCargar, Gervais vegetable farmer



**"What can agriculture do to better connect with city government and thought leaders who seem to have an insularity and sometimes utopian vision of food production that does not match the marketplace and the demands of a growing world population?"**

— Dave Dillon, Oregon Farm Bureau executive vice president



**"The Willamette Valley is one of the most fertile and best growing regions in the world. Maintaining green space and supporting land use planning will be a critical long-term part of our viability."**

— Jeff Fairchild, produce buyer for 18 New Seasons grocery stores in the Portland area



**Washington livestock compensation system 'broken'**

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

**S**POKANE VALLEY, Wash. — Washington ranchers say the compensation system for livestock killed by wolves is a "farce," telling the state's wolf advisory group that payments are too low and late.

Rancher Dave Dashiell, who lost 300 sheep to wolves two years ago, spoke to the group July 7 during a meeting in Spokane Valley. A former member, Dashiell left the advisory group in 2015.

Dashiell based his loss estimate on several counts, including one during shearing. He said the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife offered him roughly \$56,000 to \$58,000 in compensation. That works out to \$186 to \$193 per animal, or about \$216 apiece when considering the state subtracted 50 head for "normal losses."

The prices he received at market were \$300 for yearling ewes, \$200 for ewe lambs, \$250 for ewes and \$200 for fat lambs.

"We're at the point, 'Should we take the money and run?' or tell them to 'Stick it, we don't care, we don't want to deal with you?'" Dashiell told the group.

Jack Field, executive vice president of the Washington Cattlemen's Association and a member of the advisory group, also voiced his frustrations.

"It is not timely, it does not work, it's a farce," he said of the compensation system.

Ranchers don't trust the department when WDFW offers to help pay for livestock losses, Field said. The department added steps to the process and uses outside appraisers who don't understand the industry, he said.

Candace Bennett, wildlife conflict specialist for the department in Spokane, told the group the problem lies in an "extremely cumbersome"

Turn to **BROKEN**, Page 12

## Farm machinery inventories grow as demand falls

### Double-digit sales decline continues in 2016

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

The continuing downturn in farm machinery sales is leaving sellers with surplus inventories and forcing some to offer equipment at money-losing prices, experts say.

As farmers have "pulled in their horns" due to lower commodity prices, new large tractors and combines are

moving off dealer lots at a slower pace, said Charlie O'Brien, senior vice president at the Association of Equipment Manufacturers.

"They're being very selective in what they're purchasing now," O'Brien said.

Even when farmers want to buy new machinery, dealers can encounter obstructions to the sales process, he said.

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Grass seed is harvested in an Oregon field. The Association of Equipment Manufacturers reports double-digit declines in the sales of large tractors and combines through mid-2016, following similar declines in 2014 and 2015.

Capital Press File

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