



Young protesters take to the streets of Portland, Ore., after Donald Trump was elected president. The election outcome appears to have widened the urban-rural divide.

# THE GAP

# WIDENS

In election's aftermath, **urban-rural divide** has never seemed bigger

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press



**"A lying, bigoted brute has seized power, and you're well familiar with his intentions."**

Mitch Friedman,  
Conservation Northwest director

In Central Oregon, cattle rancher and timberland owner John Breese figures Donald J. Trump's election may finally bring some common-sense management to the state's choked forests.

In Seattle, Conservation Northwest Executive Director Mitch Friedman warns supporters, "A lying, bigoted brute has seized power, and you're well familiar with his intentions."

In the Willamette Valley, the heart of an Oregon wine industry that has risen to international acclaim, pioneering winemaker David Adelsheim considers the fact that his Yamhill County voted Republican, "But I don't know a single person who voted for Trump."

In the wake of a bitter presidential campaign and tight election, the gap has never seemed so wide.

"An urban-rural divide?" a commenter on the Oregon-Live.com website wrote this past week. "The rural folks support racism, the urban folks do not. Make no mistake rural Oregon, if you voted for Trump, you said racism is OK."

A commenter on the other side said Portland "progressives" think people outside Multnomah County are "a bunch of uneducated hicks." Rural residents, the commenter said,

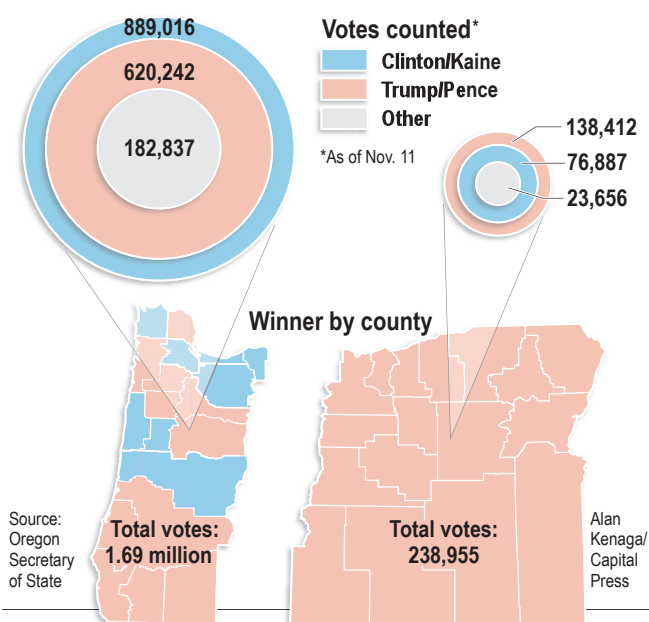
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**"If Hillary would have won, we wouldn't have been rioting in our alfalfa fields."**

John Breese, Central Oregon, cattle rancher, timberland owner

2016 Oregon vote count: East vs. West  
Western Oregon accounted for more than 87 percent of all votes tallied statewide for president and vice president of the U.S.



Protesters angry over President-elect Donald Trump take to the streets of Portland, Ore. The presidential election appears to have widened the urban-rural divide.

Photos by Alex Milan Tracy/Associated Press

## As prices fall, more farmers struggle with loan payments

Farm Credit System nonperforming loans rise 19 percent

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

More farmers across the U.S. are having a hard time

paying off their debts as commodity prices slump, reversing a years-long trend, according to federal data.

The volume of loans that are past due, not being paid or are otherwise "nonperforming" has increased more than 19 percent so far in 2016, based on data from the Farm Credit System network of lenders.

During the first three quarters of the year, nonperforming Farm Credit System assets topped \$2 billion, up from \$1.7 billion at the end of 2015.

Between 2011 and 2015, nonperforming assets dropped

about 8 percent to 24 percent annually.

"I think there's a potential for further deterioration of credit quality," said Stephen Gabriel, chief economist at the Farm Credit Administration, which regulates the network.

With the decline in prices for many crops and livestock, the Farm Credit Administration has anticipated the volume of nonperforming loans would rise, he said.

Even so, the current level of problem loans remains low by historic standards, Gabriel

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## NW water year starts with record rainfall

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

BOISE — The 2017 water season was kick-started by abundant rain in many parts of the Northwest during September and October.

Many areas received record amounts of precipitation, Natural Resources Conservation Service water supply specialist Ron Abramovich said Nov. 10 during a water supply outlook conference in Boise.

"This is exciting," he said. Abramovich also said soil moisture levels are better than last year heading into winter. "This is more good news. We will feel the impacts of that next spring when the snow starts melting."

A persistent series of storms made October the



Courtesy of Washington Department of Ecology

The Columbia River flows past White Bluffs in Benton County, Wash. The water year is off to a good start in the Northwest, with record rains reported in many areas.

wettest on record in Idaho and the second wettest in Oregon, said Kathie Dello of the Pacific Northwest Climate Impacts Research Consortium.

Other parts of the Pacific Northwest also received a lot of rain in October.

Much of the Columbia River Basin received 200 percent of normal or more, said Troy Lindquist, senior hydrologist at the National Weather Service's Boise office.

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