



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Hop cones provide extract or oil needed in stabilizing and flavoring beer. Production has been increasing for years to meet the growing demand of craft breweries.

Hops set acreage and production value records

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

MOXEE, Wash. — U.S. hop growers set records in acres harvested and value of production in 2016, and reached second best in production volume.

Increases have been fueled for several years by growth of the craft beer industry but now supply has caught up with demand, said Pete Mahony, director of supply chain management and purchasing for John I. Haas, a major processor and grower in Yakima.

"Some varietal re-balancing needs to occur but total U.S. acreage now seems sufficient to meet demand," Mahony said.

Extract from hop cones is used in making beer.

A total of 50,857 acres were harvested, up 17 percent from the 2015 total of 43,633 acres and besting the record of 44,653 set in 1915, according to a Dec. 16 report from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Value of production is estimated at \$498 million, up 44 percent from the previous record of \$345 million in 2015. The increase in value is driven by greater production of higher value aroma varieties for craft breweries over lesser value alpha varieties for mass-production brewers. That shift caused higher average prices per pound in Washington, Oregon and Idaho for an average of \$5.72 per pound up from \$4.38 in 2015, NASS said.

Pacific Northwest growers wrapped up harvest this past fall with pre-harvest stocks just 2 percent greater than the year before, indicating supply is catching up with demand.

"It's my suspicion we will probably see the rate of planting decrease but will see some new acreage this (coming) year," Ann George, executive director of Hop Growers of America and the Washington Hop Commission in Moxee, said. "Some varieties are at equilibrium or a little above. Some specialty varieties are still in short supply."

Determining equilibrium in varieties of just a few hundred acres can be difficult, she said,

because weather plays a role in yield and export demand still is increasing for some varieties.

Mahony said new plantings will continue due to contracts made 6 to 12 months ago, but the rate of increase will be much lower than in recent years.

"It could be at least 1,500 to 2,000 acres going in for 2017 but it is questionable whether any of this is truly needed in the slowing market. I would expect no expansion in 2018," he said.

Acreage in Washington was up 16 percent to 37,444; up 17 percent to 7,765 acres in Oregon and up 16 percent to 5,648 in Idaho, NASS said.

With more acreage comes more investment in equipment and labor, George said. Quality control of new food safety programs required by brewers also are driving up costs, she said.

"While some varieties — most notably bittering hop CTZ — didn't fare as well due to mildew and climatic pressure, brewers are putting in orders for hops that have exciting aromas but simply do not yield as much per acre," said Blake Crosby, vice president of Hop Growers of America and president of Crosby Hop Farm LLC, Woodburn, Ore.

U.S. production gained 11 percent in 2016 for the second year in a row, reaching 87.1 million pounds for Washington, Oregon and Idaho, compared with 78.8 million pounds in 2015 and 70.9 million in 2014.

Hazelnut growers cleaning up after severe ice storm

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

Hazelnut growers in the Eugene, Ore., area are still cleaning up damage from a nearly instantaneous flash freeze that snapped limbs, split trunks and uprooted some trees.

"We had a lot of breakage," said Jared Henderson, who grows hazelnuts in the River Road area north of Eugene.

Older, larger trees were particularly hard hit as ice accumulated on limbs and the weight bent them past the breaking point. Henderson said his younger, more limber trees fared better.

The ice arrived as part of a winter storm that draped much of Oregon with snow beginning Dec. 14. In Eugene, about 110 miles south of Portland, it took the form of freezing rain and did horrendous damage throughout the area. About 15,000 customers lost electrical power as limbs snapped off and fell across utility lines. Some people were without electricity for up to four days, and area motels filled up with people who had no heat or no way to cook at home.

The ice damage was oddly localized. Springfield, next door to Eugene, had much less damage and only a couple hundred electrical outages. Henderson said his brother, who grows hazelnuts near Corvallis about 40 miles north, wasn't hit as bad. "They got snow and we got ice," Henderson said.

Henderson, who is president of the Lane County Farm Bureau, said he couldn't place a dollar figure on the damage. "I wouldn't know where to begin," he said. The damage will include the labor cost of crews that would normally be pruning or training caneberreries instead of cleaning up broken limbs, he said.

"It's part of the business," he said. "We've had it before and we'll probably have it again."



Courtesy of Dwayne Bush

A flash freeze in the Eugene, Ore., area toppled hazelnut trees like dominoes as the weight of ice pulled them down. Orchardists in the area reported heavy limb damage.

Dwayne Bush, a third-generation hazelnut grower, said his trees in the Fern Ridge area west of Eugene came out of the storm OK, but his orchard next to Henderson's was heavily damaged.

He said trees he planted 16 and 17 years ago tended to lean to the south due to the sun's position and a prevailing wind. The weight of

ice sent them toppling into each other and "dominoed down the row."

But Bush said a freeze three years ago was worse. In that case, Bush and his crew trimmed the tops of trees, dug out dirt on the back sides, pulled them upright and backfilled the dirt.

Of 4,000 to 5,000 trees that fell over, only a small

percentage didn't bounce back and survive, he said.

Ironically, the crop that year was one of the biggest he's had.

"Filbert trees are pretty resilient," he said, using the alternative name for hazelnuts.

Bush said he's already started the same process this year.

Used Inventory Specials

12-month waiver -OR- 3 Years @ 0% -OR- 5 Years @ 0.9%

TRACTORS	TRACTORS	TRACTORS
 <p>JD 9560R, 604 hours, premium cab, Autotractor ready, 520/85R-42 triples, 5 SCV's, bareback.....PRICE REDUCED! \$266,200 Moscow 4729</p>	 <p>JD 9510R, 4440 hours, 4WD, premium cab, new engine, PS trans., 4 remotes, bareback, 800-38 duals.....PRICE REDUCED! \$300,250 Tekoa 12464</p>	 <p>JD 9510R, 847 hours, premium cab, PS trans., 1000 PTO, 5 SCV's, 800/55R-46, Opti trac duals.....PRICE REDUCED! \$272,105 Ponderay 2997</p>
 <p>JD 9320, 5291 hours, premium cab, PS, bare back, 4 SCV's, 710/70R-38 duals.....\$115,000 Moscow 0P031662</p>	 <p>MF 8650, 1553 hours, susp. cab, susp. axle, CVT, 4 remotes, 480-50 duals, front weights.....\$138,000 Merrill C048047</p>	 <p>JD 7330, 3310 hours, ROPS, open station, 16x16 trans., 741 S/L loader, 3 remotes.....\$62,000 McMinnville 0D021808</p>
 <p>JD 9300, 9631 hours, 4WD, standard cab, 24 spd trans., 3-pt hitch, 4 remotes, 710-42 duals.....\$55,000 McMinnville 40643</p>	 <p>JD 8400, 7786 hours, cab, MFWD, PS trans., 4 SCV's, 710-38 duals, newer front tires.....\$64,500 Harrisburg 0P002592</p>	 <p>Kubota M125, 2570 hours, cab, MFWD, 16x16 trans., LA16015 loader, 3 remotes, newer front tires \$45,000 Hillsboro 51442</p>
 <p>JD 9460R, 273 hours, premium cab, PS trans., bareback, 5 SCV's, 880/70R-38 duals.....PRICE REDUCED! \$266,737 Tekoa 11474</p>	 <p>Challenger MT685D, 670 hours, susp. cab, susp. axle, CVT, 5 remotes, 620-46 duals, 480-34F dual.....\$230,000 Salem ENGL1032</p>	 <p>Case IH 435, 2745 hours, 4WD, PS trans., 55gpm pump, 4 remotes, 710/70R-38 duals.....PRICE REDUCED! \$162,250 Four Lakes 117203</p>
MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS	MISCELLANEOUS
 <p>JD 640FD, 40' Flex Draper cutting platform with cart.....PRICE REDUCED! \$66,500 Four Lakes 755268</p>	 <p>JD 640FD, 40' Flex Draper cutting platform with cart.....PRICE REDUCED! \$62,125 Moscow 746276</p>	 <p>JD 2625, 30' 8" wing fold tandem disk, 22" blades, hyd. depth controls.....PRICE REDUCED! \$48,500 Moscow 750111</p>
 <p>Case IH 800 air seeder, 60", 10" spacing, hoe type openers, single shoot, air drill.....PRICE REDUCED! \$65,000 Tekoa YAS004010</p>	 <p>NH H8040, 3578 hours, cab, 14' sicklebar hay platform, rubber conditioner \$39,900 Merrill 7G660270</p>	 <p>Case IH 800 air seeder, 60" hoe openers, air drill.....PRICE REDUCED! \$65,000 Tekoa 4012</p>
 <p>Case IH 800 air seeder, 60" hoe openers, air drill.....PRICE REDUCED! \$65,000 Tekoa 4012</p>	 <p>Premium 2940 Windrower, 1550 hours, cab, 14' grass seed special platforms, R3 button tires, 5 to choose from.....\$38,550 Salem/McMinnville</p>	 <p>JD 5680, 1002 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, no platform PRICE REDUCED! \$408,222 Colfax 755718</p>
COMBINES	COMBINES	COMBINES
 <p>JD 9770 3079 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, 630R platform & cart.....\$225,000 Colfax 05730470</p>	 <p>JD 5680, 664 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, duals, 635F platform and cart.....PRICE REDUCED! \$386,222 Walla Walla 747035</p>	 <p>JD 5680, 881 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F platform and cart.....PRICE REDUCED! \$388,700 Four Lakes 755668</p>
 <p>JD 9870, 2355 hours, small grain, 27% Rahco leveler, duals, 635F platform and car PRICE REDUCED! \$386,222 Tekoa 715774</p>	 <p>JD 9770, 3688 hours, small grain, level land, 635F platform and cart.....\$189,000 Colfax A0736737</p>	 <p>JD 9650, 4730 hours, small grain, 914PU platform, small wire concave.....\$49,000 McMinnville 05685800</p>
 <p>JD 9870, 2355 hours, small grain, 27% Rahco leveler, duals, 635F platform and car PRICE REDUCED! \$386,222 Tekoa 715774</p>	 <p>JD 9600, 3253 hours, small grain, level land, 925R platform w/standard and peabar cutterbars, w/cart.....\$40,000 Moscow 0X662911</p>	 <p>JD 9870, 2335 hours, small grain, 35% Hillco leveler, duals, 635F platform and cart.....\$289,000 Colfax 05730229</p>
<p>JD 9870, 2355 hours, small grain, 27% Rahco leveler, duals, 635F platform and car PRICE REDUCED! \$386,222 Tekoa 715774</p>	<p>JD 5660, 196 hours, small grain, Vari-stream rotor, Powercast TB, 615P BPU platform.....\$363,700 Salem E0775100</p>	<p>JD 9860, 2472 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, no platform.....PRICE REDUCED! \$177,111 Tekoa 7207222</p>

2017 Idaho Irrigation Equipment Show & Conference

Thursday, January 12
Burley Inn & Convention Center
800 Overland Ave, Burley, Idaho

8 am - 4:30 pm - No Registration Necessary
FREE TRADE SHOW & CLASSES

Class schedule available at www.idahoirrigationequipmentassociation.com

Bag needs? Bag solutions!

SMITH PACKAGING
YOUR MAIN SUPPLIER FOR:

- Polyethylene Bags
- Polypropylene Bags
- Paper Bags
- Bulk Bags
- Stretch Films
- Hay Sleeves
- Mesh Produce Bags
- Plastic Pallet Covers
- Bag Closure Products
- General Warehouse Supplies

*Competitive pricing!
Great quality products!
Service you expect and trust!*

SMITH PACKAGING

• Halsey, Oregon: 541-369-2850
• Eastern Washington, Ed Kropf: 509-936-2652 or ed@smith-packaging.com
www.smithpackagingservices.com

JOHN DEERE

19 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.