

# Washington

## Rancher-photographer honored

‘agri.CULTURE’ reaches rural, urban audiences with its stories of rural life

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press



Courtesy of Roseanna Sales  
Moses Lake, Wash., rancher and photographer Sue Tebow.

A Moses Lake, Wash., rancher and photographer has been honored for her Facebook page advocating farm life.

Sue Tebow, who owns the TBO Cattle Co. cow-calf operation with her husband, received the 2017 Charles Eastin Outstanding Service Award from the Agriculture Council of America. The award honors individuals who are advocates

for accurate communications between rural and urban audiences.

Tebow launched the “agri.CULTURE” page on Facebook in April 2016. A longtime “budding” photographer, she often took pictures of people and work on the farm.

“It just came as an opportunity to me, or maybe a responsibility in a way, to tell other people about the hard-working people in agriculture,” she said.

Tebow sees her photos as telling the personal stories of farmers and ranchers.

The page has more than 5,000 followers from around the world and has reached 27,000 people, according to the council.

Tebow’s audience is divided equally between rural and urban residents, she said.

“I’ve had farm people follow along and leave me notes about how it brings them back to the roots of what they do,” she said. “I’ve had people who used to farm and now live in the city — these sto-

ries get them to reminiscing about their childhood days.”

Tebow first started taking pictures of friends and neighbors. Now she hears from people interested in getting involved. She’s offered several photo series, including 30 days of photos from a Hutterite colony; 30 days of little kids on the farm and 30 days of FFA members, including photos submitted by FFA members. Roughly 90 percent of the photos on the page were taken by Tebow.

For the month of May, she plans to have a series of photos of farming moms on the page.

The Moses Lake Museum and Arts Center recently exhibited “agri.CULTURE” photography for a month.



Courtesy of Charles Lyall

A long stick excavator scoops mud from the Wahluke irrigation canal south of Othello, Wash. About a half-mile of canal was filled with mud from Feb. 20 flash flood.

## Railroads on track for regulatory relief

Bill passes House 97-1

By **DON JENKINS**  
Capital Press



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

The Washington House has passed a bill that would pare back Department of Ecology rules that threaten to make transporting vegetable oils unprofitable for small railroads.

rail tankers, Ecology applied the rules to short-line railroads that don’t carry crude oil, arguing that the state also should be vigilant about vegetable oil spills.

Spill-response plans are due at the end of the month from the Central Washington Railroad, Columbia Basin Railroad and Great Northwest Railroad. The companies serve farmers and food processors by hauling canola,

mineral and soybean oils, but do not move crude oil.

The small railroads argue it’s absurd to equate vegetable oil with potentially explosive crude oil. They say that they already must meet federal safety standards and that complying with Ecology’s rules will cost more than they charge for hauling vegetable oils.

Under HB 1136, small railroads would not have to retain

clean-up equipment and crews on stand-by. Companies that haul fewer than 24 carloads of vegetable oils a year would not have to hold drills. If over that threshold, companies would have to drill once every three years.

The railroads would have to submit a “basic contingency plan,” which would include a “field document” for responding to spills and identify the clean-up contractors the companies would use.

Patrick Boss, a lobbyist for the small railroads, said he hoped the Senate will push up the threshold for holding drills, but said the House bill was “quite a few steps forward.”

“I think the House recognized it was ridiculous to do a cookie-cutter approach to oil,” he said.

House Environment Committee Chairman Joe Fitzgibbon, D-Burien, supported the bill, saying it balanced preparing for spills without imposing financially damaging rules.

## Canal repairs delay irrigation start-up by several days

By **DAN WHEAT**  
Capital Press

PASCO, Wash. — The South Columbia Basin Irrigation District will be seven days late providing water to growers this month as it finishes repairing canals damaged by spring runoff.

A Presidents Day warm-up with rain caused snowmelt and flash flooding that damaged fields and closed roads in Franklin County and damaged irrigation canals in several places, said Dave Solem, district manager.

Kevin Moss, a grower near Eltopia, north of Pasco, posted a video on Facebook of a large sink hole and waterfalls in his alfalfa field. He could not be reached for comment.

Solem said the Feb. 20 flash flooding filled the Wahluke branch of the district’s canal, south of Othello, with mud for half a mile and blew out about 20, 20-by-15-foot concrete panels from the sides of the 60-foot-wide, 15-foot-

deep canal. The panels are 4 to 6 inches thick. It took three excavators 10 days to dig out the canal and new panels were to be poured the week of March 5, he said.

“District employees have really stepped up to get the work done. We’ve had damage in springs past but not this much,” Solem said.

About 1.5 miles of panels were damaged on the Eltopia branch and damage in other places is still being found, he said.

“Normally at this time of year we’re doing normal maintenance for spring start-up. This is setting us back,” he said.

The start of charging canals with water has been delayed from March 6 to 13 and first water will be available to growers on or around March 29 instead of the 22nd, he said.

Charles Lyall, a district board member and Mattawa grower, said a seven-day delay in water should not be too big a hardship this season because it’s a cool, late spring, so far, with tree fruit buds developing slower than normal.

“I’m sure growers will be ready to take water when we have it. If it warms up, they will want water,” Solem said.

The South Columbia Basin Irrigation District is one of three large districts served by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Columbia Basin Irrigation Project fed by water from Lake Roosevelt behind Grand Coulee Dam.

It is the largest water reclamation project in the U.S., using an average of 2.65 million acre-feet of water annually.

The district irrigates 230,000 acres of farmland growing 70 crops but mostly alfalfa, potatoes, wheat, tree fruit, corn and grapes.

### LEGAL

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION**  
Probate Department  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Daniel R. McGowan, Deceased No. 17PB00512**  
**NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.

All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.

DATED and first published March 3, 2017.

**Personal Representative: JOSHUA R. MCGOWAN 62020 Quail Run Place Bend, OR 97701**

**Attorney: DAVID B. BECKHAM 319 Sixth Avenue SW Albany, OR 97321**

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