

# Oregon

## ‘Mass timber’ in state’s future, speaker predicts

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press



Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

Valerie Johnson, co-owner of D.R. Johnson Lumber Co. in Riddle, Ore., says the state should be the center of producing cross-laminated timbers for use in building tall wooden buildings.

Johnson said the state should be the center of producing cross-laminated timbers for use in building tall wooden buildings. “But if there’s a way to create more jobs with the same log supply, why don’t we get on about that?” she said. The March 27 summit in Portland focused on the Oregon

later in the week.

In September 2015, D.R. Johnson became the first American company certified to make cross-laminated timber panels. Certification by the American Plywood Association and the American National Standards Institute assures the panels, called CLT, can be used in building construction.

Johnson said the company she and her sister, Jodi Westbrook, co-own is working to supply multiple tall wood construction projects, including half a dozen schools in Washington. The city of Springfield, Ore., once home to major wood products companies, will build a parking garage made from wood.

Johnson said the estimated market opportunity for cross-laminated timber panels in U.S. construction is \$1.5 billion to \$4 billion. She said Oregon is a natural center for the industry.

“Well, why not here?” she said. “We’re as smart and hard-working as anybody.”

A four-story commercial building under construction in Portland, called Albina Yard, is the first project built with domestically produced CLT panels. Such products now are referred to generically as mass timber construction.

Meanwhile, Oregon State University’s College of Forestry and College of Engineering have formed a partnership

with the University of Oregon’s School of Architecture and Allied Arts. A new facility at OSU, called the TallWood Design Institute, will be the nation’s first research collaborative that focuses exclusively on the advancement of structural wood products.

Meanwhile, D.R. Johnson may soon have company, or competition, on the production side of things. In a March 16 opinion piece in the Capital Press, Tyler Freres of Oregon-based Freres Lumber said in 2017 the company intends to complete a production facility that can make “veneer-based” panels up to 12 feet wide, 48 feet long and 24 inches thick.

## Oregon regulators approve permit for 30,000-head dairy

By CLAIRE WITHYCOMBE  
Capital Bureau



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group

Twin carousels simultaneously milk 80 cows on each side while slowly revolving in the milking parlor at the Columbia River Dairy outside Boardman, Ore. Last week Oregon regulators granted Lost Valley Farm, another mega-dairy near Boardman, a wastewater permit.

The dairy currently has a temporary permit until April 30, which allows 450 gallons per minute of water for construction.

Through a water rights transfer, the farm is requesting 1,037 acre-feet of water per year.

Officials said Friday that the state received a protest filed by the Crag Law Center on behalf of a coalition of environmental groups that oppose the transfer and called the operation a “major threat” to water and air quality.

The permit does not reg-

ulate air quality, which was a concern raised by environmental groups and by a group representing small and mid-size farms.

Lost Valley Farm plans to build and use a methane digester in two to three years, if it is “economically feasible.”

A bill currently before the Oregon Legislature would require the state’s Environmental Quality Commission to adopt a program regulating air contaminant emissions from confined animal feeding operations such as Lost Valley.

Ivan Maluski, of Friends of Family Farmers, called the decision by state regulators “disappointing but not unexpected.”

Maluski argues that large dairies like Lost Valley push small and mid-size dairy farms out of business, and points to a 2013 report from the state’s employment department that shows that the number of small dairies in Oregon shrank between 2002 and 2007.

## NORPAC names new CEO

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

Shawn Campbell, a veteran of the food processing industry, is the new president and CEO of NORPAC, the venerable Willamette Valley farmers’ cooperative.



Shawn Campbell

Campbell replaces George Smith, who retired after heading the co-op for more than a decade and working at the company 38 years.

Campbell was hired as NORPAC’s chief operating officer in 2016 as part of a strategic succession plan, and he’s not new to the workings of farmers’ cooperatives. He worked more than 10 years at Darigold, the dairy products co-op, where he was most recently the senior vice president of consumer products.

He also has food brokerage and business development experience in the U.S. and Canada.

Campbell said he’d been looking for an opportunity to lead an organization when

the NORPAC position came open. The co-op has a solid foundation, he said, with quality products, reliable sourcing and a hardworking employee base. The co-op model gives independent businesses — farms, in this case — more economic power than they would have by themselves, provides a reliable market for their crops and gives them an opportunity for governance, he said. Co-op members sit on NORPAC’s board of directors.

Campbell agreed consumers are familiar with NORPAC’s FLAV-R-PAC brand frozen vegetables and fruit and its Santiam brand canned products, but said people may be buying NORPAC products without realizing it. The co-op packages under private labels, and its vegetables, soups and chili are used by restaurants, he said.

Campbell said most of his background is in sales and marketing and he’ll be looking for innovative growth, including new products. He declined to be more specific. “There’s definitely opportunity out there,” he said.

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