



TRUMP

HIS FIRST 100 DAYS

President scores high on regulations and Cabinet picks, but trade, labor worries remain

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall says he recognizes how President Donald Trump works.

Trump evaluates problems, weighs solutions and makes decisions, the Georgia farmer says. "He's already shown he can be flexible," Duvall said. "We do that on the farm every day."

After 100 days in office — a milestone reached April 29 — Trump receives mostly high marks from producers and farm leaders interviewed for this story, partly because he's kept campaign promises, but also because he's signaled a willingness to adapt.

The favorable reviews, however, come with widely shared reservations, particularly about how his tough talk on immigration and trade will impact agriculture.

"It's a little scary to not know what the future will bring," said Washington State Grain Commission member Dana Herron, whose state exports up to 90 percent of its wheat crop.

Promises kept

On regulations, Trump, as promised, rescinded the new Waters of the U.S. rule, widely despised by farm groups. He also signed a congressional resolution to repeal the unpopular Bureau of Land Management Planning 2.0 Rule and issued executive orders to review farm regulations and the designation of national monuments.

On the makeup of his administration, farm groups praise Trump's picks for agriculture secretary, interior secretary and Environmental Protection Agency administrator. The new EPA head, Scott Pruitt, spoke recently to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

"He received two standing ovations from a roomful of cattle producers," NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Colin Woodall said. "I've never seen that before."

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Courtesy USDA

Flanked by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and FFA Central Region Vice President Valerie Early of Minnesota, President Donald Trump holds up an executive order creating a task force to promote agriculture and rural prosperity April 25 at the White House.

- Jan. 23 — Trump withdraws U.S. from Trans-Pacific Partnership.
- Jan. 25 — Trump signs executive order to increase enforcement of immigration laws.
- Feb. 17 — Senate confirms Scott Pruitt to lead Environmental Protection Agency.
- Feb. 28 — Trump rescinds Waters of the United States rule.
- March 1 — Senate confirms Ryan Zinke to head Interior Department.
- March 16 — Trump proposes 31 percent budget cut to EPA and 21 percent cut to USDA.
- March 27 — Trump signs resolution repealing Bureau of Land Management Planning 2.0 Rule.
- March 31 — Trump orders report within 90 days on causes of trade deficits.
- April 7 — Trump hosts Chinese President Xi Jinping at Mar-a-Lago; hopes rise for U.S. beef exporters.
- April 24 — Senate confirms Sonny Perdue to direct USDA.
- April 25 — Trump sets up task force to promote agriculture and rural prosperity.
- April 26 — Trump orders review of national monument designations.
- April 27 — Trump tweets that Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau asked him to renegotiate NAFTA rather than terminate NAFTA. "I agreed ... subject to the fact that if we do not reach a fair deal for all, we will then terminate NAFTA. Relationships are good — deal very possible."

Source: Capital Press research

Don Jenkins and Alan Kenagal/Capital Press

PORT OF PORTLAND

Massive ships threaten export prospects

Experts paint sobering picture of challenges facing container terminal

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Increasingly massive container ships threaten the relevance of the Port of Portland's container terminal, where cranes aren't large enough to accommodate the behemoth vessels, experts say.

"In many ways, this is where the market is headed and what we have to contend with in Portland," said Randy Fischer, senior analyst at the port. "It's bigger ships coming in and smaller ships getting pulled out."

Transportation officials painted a sobering picture of the problems facing container shipping from the port during an April 28 meeting with Northwest importers and exporters.

Container traffic at the port came to a halt in 2016 after several ocean carriers stopped calling at the facility, claiming that slow loading and unloading rendered the market unprofitable.

Productivity problems at the port were blamed on a labor dispute between the longshoremen's union and the terminal operator, ICTSI, which began leasing the facility in 2011.

The Port of Portland regained control of the container terminal after ending its contract with ICTSI earlier this year, but carriers must still be convinced to return.

"We have a bit of a black eye in the market right now and we need to figure out how best to fit into the market," said Fischer.

The International Longshore and Warehouse Union is still involved in a legal dispute with the port, though it's less intense than litigation between the union and ICTSI, said Keith Leavitt, the port's chief commercial officer.

As the port devises a plan to lure ocean carriers back to the Terminal 6 container facility, it will also seek to "reset" its relationship with ILWU, he said.

"When we start making our market pitch, they need to be with us," Leavitt said.

Financial turmoil in the shipping industry has reduced the number of major global ocean carrier companies from 20 to 14 even as global freight capacity has surged, Fischer said.

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Two Oregon onion packing sheds moving to Idaho

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

CANYON COUNTY, Idaho — Two major onion packing sheds are moving from Oregon's Malheur County to Idaho.

Golden West Produce and Owyhee Produce, both located in Nyssa, Ore., have taken out building permits to construct packing sheds and several storage facilities across the Snake River in north-

western Canyon County, Idaho.

Golden West Produce is one of the largest of the 29 packing sheds in the Idaho-Oregon onion growing region and Owyhee Produce ranks in the top third.

Golden West had been planning to move its onion packing operation to Idaho in the next three to five years and Owyhee Produce had been seriously considering moving to Idaho.

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Owyhee Produce General Manager Shay Myers stands in front of an excavator removing onions and debris damaged when one of the company's onion storage facilities collapsed this winter under the weight of snow and ice, March 3 in Nyssa, Ore. Owyhee Produce and Golden West Produce, both hit hard by the winter damage, are moving their onion packing operations from Nyssa to Idaho.

Sean Ellis/Capital Press

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