

# Kosher among the oldest niches for food certification

By ALIYA HALL  
Capital Press



Kosher may be the original niche certification for food. After all, the first certified kosher product came out in the late 1800s.

Despite its long history, kosher certification continues to grow in demand, creating an industry that brings in \$12.5 billion annually, according to the most recent study in 2012 by Lubicom, which tracks the industry.

Tuvia Berzow, executive director of Oregon Kosher, a regional certifier, said it's not a question of if companies should get certified, but when.

"Consumers expect it," he said. "Certification is not a complicated process that is going to change everything they're doing. The market is there, and it's an important value-added certification to reach a niche market that otherwise you couldn't reach."

Last year the Jewish population in Oregon was 40,650, approximately 1 percent of the state population, according to statistics from the Jewish Virtual Library. Not every Jew chooses to eat kosher, and Reform Jews tend to be more lenient on these laws.

Kosher follows the Jewish law of Kashrus, meaning suitable or pure, and is broken down into three categories: meat, dairy and pareve — food prepared without dairy and meat. Although many natural ingredients are kosher, once they are processed further, a certifying agency is needed to verify their status.

"In kosher law, the vessel can take on the status of food cooked inside of it," Berzow explained. He used vegan sauce as an example.

"Ingredient-wise everything is essentially kosher, but if it's made in a factory and they're making meat sauces in the same equipment that vessel then becomes non-kosher, and any subsequent products will impart non-kosher status," he said.

Any metal vessel can be "kosherized." The machine has to sit unused and clean for

While 85 percent of facilities go fully kosher, not all do, according to Berzow. Those companies have to constantly kosherize their machines and keep the non-kosher items separate.

Shawn and Mark Preble of Sunny's Frozen Yogurt in Portland have the state's first and only partial kosher certification.

Approached by Rabbi Dove Chastain about becoming a kosher shop, Shawn Preble said initially she couldn't because not all of her toppings were kosher, and it was too expensive to switch to all kosher. Oregon Kosher decided to grant the Prebles partial certification, as long as the toppings were separated from the kosher yogurt.

Although the Prebles aren't Jewish, their store is within a large Jewish neighborhood of Portland.

"We recognized that it was part of our neighborhood. To be honest, I don't know if it increased business, but we've got nothing by positive feedback. I get, 'I don't keep a kosher kitchen, but I really appreciate the fact you're kosher,'" Preble said.

Kosher consumers are not always Jewish. Berzow said it's popular among other religious groups, as well as those with dietary restrictions and vegetarians because the level of supervision is higher in the kosher industry and — unlike organic certifications — are independent of the government.

Not every industry can easily become kosher-certified. Wine can only be kosher if the production was done exclusively by Torah-Observant Jews, and kosher meat production is complex and expensive. The animal needs to be slaughtered by a Schochet, a specialized Jewish butcher, and requires thorough inspection before and after the animal is killed.

"There's a misconception that kosher just means a Rabbi blesses the food. The joke I always say is 'if I was just blessing the food, I could do it from home,'" said Berzow.

## West Coast Kosher certifying agencies

**Oregon:** Oregon Kosher  
**Washington:** Vaad HaRabanim of Greater Seattle  
**California:** Kehillah Kosher, Vaad Hakashrus of Northern California, Rabbinical Council of California, Rabbinical Council of Orange County and Long Beach

### What is Kosher ...

#### ... Meat

- From animals that chew cud, have split hooves
- Domesticated fowl
- Slaughtered by a shochet (specialized Jewish butcher)
- Soaked and removed of all blood before cooking
- Utensils must be kosher

#### ... Dairy

- Comes from a kosher animal
- All ingredients must be kosher, free of animal derivatives
- Produced, processed and packed on kosher equipment

#### ... Pareve (Other than meat or dairy)

- Foods not processed on meat or dairy equipment
- Fruits, veggies and grains free of small insects and larvae
- Eggs free of blood spots

Capital Press graphic

24 hours before being filled with water, which is then boiled.

There are over 1,000 certifiers worldwide, and each is distinguished by regional versus international domain. Berzow estimates there are six or seven major agencies that certify thousands of companies and millions of products internationally. The others, such as Oregon Kosher, are considered regional.

The certification agency's fee changes with the complexity of the facility and products that are being made. Oregon Kosher is the only regional certifier in the state and Berzow said its annual fees range from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

# Washington budget funds carbon cap, deterring wolves

## Gov. Inslee vetoes minimum wage study

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — Washington's new two-year, \$43.7 billion operating budget includes money to cap greenhouse gases, protect livestock from wolves and expand internships on farms.

Gov. Jay Inslee signed the spending plan on June 30, an hour before the old budget expired, averting a partial government shutdown. The previous two-year operating budget was \$39 billion.

The Republican-led Senate and Democrat-controlled House worked out the compromise in an overtime session.

Lawmakers have not passed legislation responding to a state Supreme Court ruling that threatens to stop the drilling of new household wells in rural areas. Republican lawmakers say they will not approve new capital improvement projects until Democrats agree to relax the court's decision.

Agriculture-related items in the operating budget include:

- The Department of Ecology will receive \$4.6 million to enforce the Clean Air Rule, the name the Inslee administration gave the governor-ordered cap on carbon emissions from dozens of factories, oil refineries and natural gas distributors. Implementing the cap will require the equivalent of 20.5 full-time employees, according to a budget summary.

The Washington Farm Bureau and Northwest Food

Processors Association have joined a lawsuit by business groups to overturn the rule. The suit is pending in Thurston County Superior Court.

- Lawmakers appropriated money to the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture for wolf-related programs.

WDFW will receive \$950,000 for its Wolf Advisory Group and to share costs with ranchers who sign agreements to use range riders to watch out for wolves.

WSDA will receive \$300,000 to distribute to groups trying to deter depredations in Ferry, Okanogan, Pend Oreille and Stevens counties.

- Lawmakers extended a farm internship program to Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis and Walla Walla counties.

Small farms, those with annual gross revenue of less than \$250,000, can hire interns exempted from the state's minimum wage law.

The program already applied to small farms in 16 counties. The Department of Labor and Industries will receive \$145,000 to administer

the program.

- Lawmakers authorized WSDA to write rules for certifying marijuana that meets organic standards. Fees collected from marijuana growers will fund the program. WSDA projects the program will cost \$934,000 over two years.

- Lawmakers appropriated \$250,000 from the general fund to help small farms market their products.

- Inslee vetoed a \$100,000 study on how the state's minimum wage affects teenage employment. Lawmakers sought the study after voters raised the state's minimum wage to \$11 an hour. The wage will increase to \$13.50 by 2020.

In his veto message, Inslee stated that teenage workers have not been able to keep up with the cost of living. He stated he was committed to providing "incentives for employers to hire teen workers."

- A tax bill that Inslee was scheduled to sign Friday includes a business tax exemption for two farm chemical suppliers, The McGregor Co. of Colfax and Two Rivers Terminals of Pasco.

# Farm Bureau president meets with Idaho producers

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

MERIDIAN, Idaho — American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall met several hundred Idaho farmers and ranchers this week during an extensive tour of the state.

Idaho Farm Bureau Federation staff and board members accompanied Duvall while he visited farms and agribusinesses and spoke with producers.

"He primarily wanted to speak with producers because he wants to be able to tell their story," said IFBF CEO and Executive Vice President Rick Keller.

Duvall was joined by IFBF President Bryan Searle, a Shelley farmer, and together they heard straight from farmers' about the issues that most concern them, Keller said.

"Now they'll take those messages back to Washington, D.C., or the state capitol to try to provide answers and solutions," he said.

Duvall received a standing ovation after speaking and answering questions during a dinner June 28 at Big D Ranch in Meridian, an event that attracted about 200 people, mostly producers.

"We've really been treated to something that's a rarity," Searle said after taking the microphone.



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

American Farm Bureau Federation President Zippy Duvall meets with producers, FFA members and other Farm Bureau members June 28 during a dinner at Big D Ranch in Meridian, Idaho. Duvall spent the week visiting with hundreds of Idaho farmers and ranchers.

When he was elected as AFBF president in January 2016, Duvall promised to visit with producers in every state. Idaho is state No. 42 on his tour.

"I think it's important for the American Farm Bureau president to get out to meetings just like this and talk to the grassroots," he said at the Big D Ranch event.

Duvall has a 300-head beef cow herd, grows 750,000 broilers per year and his own hay and has been involved in dairying, but he said his face-to-face interactions with farmers around the country have been revealing.

"I spent all my life in agriculture ... and I thought I really knew agriculture until

I started traveling," he told the Capital Press. "I realized that to be a good president of (AFBF), I had to know agriculture and the best way to do that is to get out and meet the grassroots of this great organization."

Duvall said that based on his visits with farmers and ranchers around the nation, the No. 1 issue on their minds is labor, followed by burdensome regulations, trade, tax reform and how farmers can communicate what they do to the public.

"Those are the issues that are on the minds of our farmers," he said.

He told Capital Press that he was in awe of the challenges that ranchers in the West face when it comes to grazing on public lands.

"I knew nothing about this before and I've become pretty passionate about their issues," he said. "I've talked about it probably more than anybody else in Washington, D.C., and I take pride in doing that because these people need their voices heard and I'm trying to be their voice."

He said Idaho agriculture's reliance on reservoirs stood out during his tour of the state.

"He was able to see our water system from the air and how it's desert on this side of the road and it's green on this side and it's all due to that canal that's running the water," Searle said.

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<p><b>JD 5075E</b>, 2016, 183 hours, ROPS, MFWD, 9x3 trans., 25CV's, JD H240 NSL loader, 16.9-28 tires.....<b>\$42,500</b> Hillsboro GG100418</p>	<p><b>JD 9460R</b>, 2012, 2946 hours, premium cab, PS trans., bareback, SF3000, JD 2630 display, 710-42 duals...<b>\$211,000</b> Donald CP002589</p>	<p><b>JD 9420</b>, 2003, 5284 hours, premium cab, PS trans., 4 remotes, bareback, 800-38 duals, front weights.....<b>\$115,000</b> Tangent OP011006</p>
<p><b>JD 6420</b>, 2004, 8394 hours, open station, MFWD, PQ trans., JD 640 loader, 18.4-38 rear single tires.....<b>\$47,500</b> Donald OD436165</p>	<p><b>JD 9360R</b>, 2013, 596 hours, premium cab, PS trans., 4 remotes, bareback 520-42 duals, front weights...<b>\$211,200</b> Madras DP008265</p>	<p><b>JD 8650</b>, 2012, 1553 hours, premium cab, CVT, susp. axle, 4 SCV's, 480-50 rear duals, 480-34 front singles.....<b>\$134,999</b> Merrill C048047</p>
<p><b>JD 6420</b>, 2004, 8394 hours, open station, MFWD, PQ trans., JD 640 loader, 18.4-38 rear single tires.....<b>\$47,500</b> Donald OD436165</p>	<p><b>Kubota M125</b>, 2007, 2570 hours, cab, MFWD, 16x16 PR trans., 540 PTO, LA16015 front loader, 3 remotes.....<b>\$39,500</b> Hillsboro S1442</p>	<p><b>Challenger MT685D</b>, 2014, 670 hours, premium cab, CVT, susp. axle, 5 SCV's, 520-46 rear duals, 480-34 front duals.....<b>\$221,000</b> Salem ENGL1032</p>
HAY EQUIPMENT	HAY EQUIPMENT	HAY EQUIPMENT
<p><b>Frontier WR1216 rake</b>, 2007, 16 wheel tandem wheel rake.....<b>\$7,650</b> Merrill 6C700062</p>	<p><b>NH 1441 MoCo</b>, 2003, 15'5" center pivot, rotary head, roller conditioner, 3pt hitch, 1000 PTO...<b>\$18,200</b> McMinnville 1230029</p>	<p><b>JD 469 baler</b>, 2013, 4X6 round baler, surface wrap &amp; twine tie, pushbar, moisture kit w/tank...<b>\$29,000</b> Central Point 9D390098</p>
<p><b>NH H8040</b>, 2008, 3578 hours, cab, hydrostatic, 14' sickle bar platform, rubber roller conditioner.....<b>\$39,900</b> Merrill 7G660270</p>	<p><b>MF 2170 baler</b>, 2012, 100 bale count, single axle, roller chute...<b>\$85,000</b> Madras CHB04296</p>	<p><b>JD 956 MoCo</b>, 2010, 14'5" center pivot, rotary head, impeller conditioner, 3pt hitch, 1000 PTO...<b>\$25,000</b> McMinnville AA361256</p>
<p><b>JD 9500SH</b>, 1992, 5700 hours, small grain, JD factory sidehill leveler, no platform.....<b>\$30,000</b> Tekoa OX646988</p>	<p><b>NH 260</b>, 2015, 320 hours, cab, hydrostatic, 16' rotary platform, rubber conditioning rolls...<b>\$118,000</b> Fall River Mills YFG675493</p>	<p><b>JD 4995</b>, 2007, 2553 hours, cab, hydrostatic, 16' JD 995 platform, steel conditioner.....<b>\$64,900</b> Madras 5X330695</p>
WINDROWERS	WINDROWERS	WINDROWERS
<p><b>JD 9600</b>, 1995, 4821 hours, small grain, grass seed combine, 914W BPU, platform, straw chopper...<b>\$42,500</b> Tangent OX665740</p>	<p><b>JD 5670</b>, 2014, 464 hours, small grain, A/T ready, Pro Drive, JD 615P belt pickup platform.....<b>\$290,400</b> Merrill 756645</p>	<p><b>JD 8450</b>, 2014, 862 hours, cab, hydrostatic, 14' JD 944 platform, steel conditioner, R1 tires.....<b>\$86,000</b> Four Lakes CD390654</p>
<p><b>JD 5680</b>, 2013, 881 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F platform and cart, A/T ready.....<b>\$388,700</b> Four Lakes 755668</p>	<p><b>JD 5680</b>, 2012, 664 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, 635F platform and cart, A/T ready.....<b>\$347,600</b> Walla Walla 747035</p>	<p><b>JD 1670</b>, 2009, 1148 hours, small grain, conventional separator, grass seed combine.....<b>\$180,000</b> Donald 0A084501</p>
COMBINES	COMBINES	COMBINES
<p><b>JD 5680</b>, 2013, 881 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco Leveler, 635F platform and cart, A/T ready.....<b>\$388,700</b> Four Lakes 755668</p>	<p><b>JD 5680</b>, 2012, 664 hours, small grain, 35% Rahco leveler, 635F platform and cart, A/T ready.....<b>\$347,600</b> Walla Walla 747035</p>	<p><b>JD 1670</b>, 2009, 1148 hours, small grain, conventional separator, grass seed combine.....<b>\$180,000</b> Donald 0A084501</p>

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