

Capital Press

The West's **Ag** Weekly



THE POT FARMER

NEXT DOOR

Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Casey Kulla inspects marijuana plants growing at his farm near McMinnville, Ore. As Oregon's marijuana industry has grown, it's raised questions about the "right to farm" and other land use issues.

Oregon's marijuana industry raises land use tensions

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press



Marijuana plants grow in a high tunnel at a farm near McMinnville, Ore. Since Oregon voters legalized the psychoactive crop in 2014, 685 marijuana producers have been licensed to grow the crop and more than 800 have applications pending.

Upon starting a marijuana operation on their farm near McMinnville, Ore., last year, Casey and Katie Kulla encountered no objections from neighbors.

The Kullas attribute the lack of controversy to their 10-year history of growing organic vegetables without running into conflicts with surrounding conventional farmers.

"We're not perceived as outsiders, which I think is a big problem right now," said Katie Kulla.

Elsewhere in Oregon, fledgling marijuana operations have met with alarm in rural communities, even prompting lawsuits in state and federal courts.

For example, a couple in Clackamas County have accused marijuana-growing neighbors of violating the federal Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

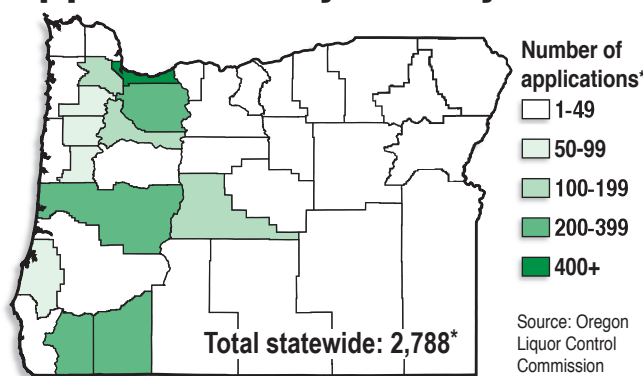
The Kullas believe they've avoided such reactions because nearby farmers trust their marijuana operation won't bring loud music or raucous visitors, which are common grievances.

"Nothing for our neighbors has changed," said Casey Kulla.

Nearly three years since Oregon voters legalized recreational marijuana, 685 producers have been licensed by the state to grow the crop and more than 800 have applications pending. Whether this development is

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Oregon marijuana license applications by county (As of July 27)



Top 10 counties by number of applications*

Rank/county	Applications	(Cont.)	Applications
1. Multnomah	496	6. Washington	188
2. Jackson	395	7. Deschutes	114
3. Lane	369	8. Marion	109
4. Clackamas	290	9. Yamhill	79
5. Josephine	254	10. Polk	73

*Includes lab, processor, producer, retailer, wholesaler and researcher occupations.

Alan Kenaga/EO Media Group

Rancher asks ODFW to kill wolves after latest attack

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press

A rancher in northeast Oregon's Wallowa County requested the state Department of Fish and Wildlife to use lethal control against the Harl Butte wolfpack, which has attacked calves six times in the past year.

An ODFW spokeswoman said the department received the request July 28 and will make a decision in the coming days; no decision had been made as of Aug. 2. Meanwhile, the

environmental group Oregon Wild called on Gov. Kate Brown to provide "transparency and accountability" as ODFW considers the request.

"This cannot become a pattern. Wolves belong here. We must find a way to coexist that does not involve wiping out an entire wolf pack every few years," Oregon Wild Executive Director Sean Stevens said in a prepared statement.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association wolf chair, Wallowa County rancher and commissioner Todd

Nash, declined to comment.

The lethal control request came after ODFW confirmed a calf found dead July 26 had been killed by wolves.

The calf was estimated to have weighed 400 to 500 pounds but was mostly consumed by the time the carcass was discovered. Only the skeleton and hide were left. An ODFW investigator estimated the calf was killed July 20-22.

Data from a GPS tracking collar showed a wolf designated OR-50 was

within 200 yards of the carcass four times from July 21 to 25. Bite marks on the carcass and fresh wolf tracks in the area contributed to the confirmation.

ODFW confirmed six attacks on calves by the Harl Butte pack between July 15, 2016 and July 22, 2017. In addition to the calf found dead most recently, another calf was found alive July 21 with multiple bite marks, including one wound that was 4 inches long and 3 inches wide. That attack was estimated to have occurred about

a week earlier. Both occurred on public land grazing allotments.

The Harl Butte pack also was blamed for killing a calf on private pasture in April. The pack, newly designated this year, is thought to be made up of wolves inhabiting ODFW's Imnaha and Snake River wildlife management units. ODFW's annual wolf report said the pack is made up of 10 wolves, although more may have been born this spring.

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Potential increase in ICE presence raises concerns in Idaho

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

A pending contract between Jerome County in south-central Idaho and Immigration Customs Enforcement allowing ICE to lease bed space at the county's new jail is fueling trepidation in the local dairy community.

Bob Naerebout, executive director of the Idaho Dairymen's Association, said dairymen are concerned

that "more presence by ICE in the local community is going to intimidate their workers," who think ICE "will be looking for them, raids in the cornfield."

Naerebout said there's cause for concern considering the trend in increased ICE enforcement since President Donald Trump took office.

The dairy industry doesn't qualify for the H2-A program, or any other visa program for foreign workers, and

a significant percentage of the Hispanic community that came to the area to work in agriculture arrived without legal work status, he said.

He quotes statistics by the Department of Homeland Security that show a 37.6 percent increase in ICE enforcement and removal operations from the end of January through the end of April compared to a year earlier. And The Atlantic magazine reported non-criminal arrests during that

period were up 150 percent, he said. "You can see there is reason for fear," he said.

In a letter to county commissioners in opposition to the contract, he said, "The fear of families being broken up and friends being removed from the community they grew up in and love is real."

With talk of the ICE contract, some

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