

People & Places

Ag director sets the pace

Celia Gould a trail blazer in Idaho ag

By SEAN ELLIS
Capital Press

BOISE — When you're director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture and still own and operate a ranch, there's not a lot of down time.

ISDA Director Celia Gould, who is in her 10th year, makes the two-hour drive from Boise to Buhl after work each Friday to help run her ranch on the weekend.

Then it's back to Boise to run the department.

"I've never been a person that needed a lot of down time," she said. "That drive time is really good down time for me."

Gould, 59, is the state's first female ag department director and will become the longest-serving director at the end of her current four-year term.

Gould, who also served 16 years in the Idaho Legislature, said she took the job because it gave her an opportunity to help an industry she grew up in and loves.

"Agriculture has always been my passion. It's why I ran for the legislature," she said. "I wanted to do what I loved and that was agriculture."

When she was offered the



Sean Ellis/Capital Press

Celia Gould, director of the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, is the first woman to hold that job.

position by Gov. Butch Otter, himself a rancher, she never imagined she would remain for three terms.

"My plan was to be here four years and then go back to the ranch full-time," Gould said. "I never envisioned I would stay here that long."

But as she told legislators two years ago before they voted to approve her for a third term, she felt she has unfinished business at the department.

During her second year as ISDA director in 2008, during the recession, the department's

budget was slashed 13 percent and that meant a lot of cutting.

"We cut some things in 2008 that we probably shouldn't have cut, but we just didn't have a choice and now we've had to go back and do some fence building," Gould said.

With the ISDA budget almost back to its 2008 level — the department's 2018 fiscal year budget is \$45.5 million while the 2008 budget was \$46 million — Gould says she would like to do some positive things.

Gould said that since fund-

ing has returned to near normal, the ISDA has stepped up its marketing programs and significantly improved its laboratory capabilities.

Some of her goals include seeking more opportunities for the state's organic growers, continuing to grow ISDA's range monitoring program and continuing to grow farm exports, which have almost doubled under her tenure.

She and her husband, former Idaho Speaker of the House Bruce Newcomb, raise Angus and Wagyu cattle on their ranch.



Western Innovator

Celia Gould

Position: Rancher; director of Idaho State Department of Agriculture

Home: Buhl, Idaho

Family: Husband, Bruce Newcomb; five children and 10 grandchildren

Professional: Master's degree in public administration and bachelor's degree in political science from Boise State University

Otter told Capital Press in a statement that Gould's "years of experience both in the field and here under the dome of the Capitol made her an ideal pick to lead the department of agriculture, a job she has done with remarkable skill."

"Her considerable knowledge about Idaho agriculture and wealth of experience in the legislature provide her with invaluable insight, which is why I routinely seek her guidance on many issues," he said.

Newspaper sparks interest in connecting students with ag

By JUDY L. BEDELL
For the Capital Press

SACRAMENTO — Austin Miller says that "connecting students to agriculture is more important now than ever before."

Growing up in tiny Scio, Ore., he has fond memories of spending summers on his grandparents' ranch.

He also has fond memories of growing up with the Capital Press newspaper.

"I first got to know Capital Press in high school ag class. Every Friday or Monday we would pass the paper around, and we used the info for various projects," Miller said.

A Capital Press representative was looking for people to sell subscriptions at the Oregon State Fair in 2013 "so I signed up," said Miller, who sold subscriptions for three years at the fair and to friends and family on the side.

"Selling subscriptions at the



Submitted Photo

Austin Miller, program coordinator for the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, explains the "Imagine This..." writing contest to teachers at the organization's annual conference in Visalia.

Oregon State Fair was a lot of fun," he said. "There were so many people who were die-hard fans, and they came by the booth each year to renew their

subscription at the fair."

Miller has always been a "people" person, so once he graduated from Oregon State University with a major in agriculture, an informal focus in ag education and a minor in comparative international agriculture, he was ready to put those attributes to work.

He started with the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation while still in college and then made the jump to the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom earlier this year as the program coordinator of communications.

"Here in California agriculture is always growing and changing. I believe the push-back that ag receives is not going away. It is a great blessing to be able to choose and make opinions about what we eat and buy but we have a huge need to educate people to make informed decisions," Miller said. "For those of us involved in

ag, we have a clear picture of what it means but to the consumer or teacher, you have to break it down into something they can relate to. Make sure they know ag is the food they eat and the clothes they wear," Miller explained.

"We came up with the '5 F's of Ag: Food, Fiber, Fish, Forestry and Fuel,'" he said. "It gets people talking and asking questions."

For example, he said, "bio-fuel is a big part of the message we are working on. It is a fun way to connect ag to science. Students love the lessons we have on turning cow poop into electricity. They not only learn but they don't forget and it gets them talking and wondering."

One of the biggest challenges Miller faces is getting accurate information on agriculture to urban teachers and those without an agriculture background.

"We are really working on our website as a resource for

teachers to find standards-based lessons that are clear, easy to follow and fun. We update the information throughout the month and I am an email away if someone needs help," Miller said.

On the website teachers can find mini-lessons, fact cards, grants, lesson plans and contests. The "Imagine This..." writing contest starts this fall and is a way to involve students in grades 3-8 in agriculture. Details and examples of past winning stories can be found on the website.

Miller keeps himself busy spreading the word and making it easy for teachers to incorporate agriculture into the classroom.

Resources and materials for taking agriculture into the classroom can be found at learnaboutag.org. For more information on the California Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom, call Miller at 916-561-5633.

Calendar

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To submit an event go to the Community Events calendar on the home page of our website at www.capitalpress.com and click on "Submit an Event." Calendar items can also be mailed to Capital Press, 1400 Broadway St. NE, Salem, OR 97301 or emailed to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

Friday, Aug. 18-Sunday, Aug. 27

Western Idaho Fair, noon-11 p.m. Western Idaho Fairgrounds, 5610 Glenwood St., Garden City, Idaho. Website: <http://www.idahofair.com/>

Saturday, Aug. 19

Total Solar Eclipse Weekend. Noon-4 p.m. Left Coast Estate, 4225 N. Pacific Highway W, Rickreall, Ore. Vineyard tours, food and Left Coast Estate Wines. Vineyard truck tours will be rolling all day long. Learn about our viticulture practices, our sustainability efforts, where your favorite wine comes from and more. Our Tasting Room and Cafe will be your complete sense of eclipse serenity with peaceful views of the vineyards. Nearby, our Treehouse Pavilion will feature live music. Cost: \$30 Website: <http://leftcoastcellars.com/>

Sat.-Sunday, Aug. 19-20

11th Annual Harvest Fest. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Yamhill Valley Heritage Center, 11275 SW Durham Lane, McMinnville, Ore. The event will feature threshing, baling and binding oats using vintage equipment, pioneer kids activities, petting animals, pedal tractors, tractor parade, working sawmill and blacksmith shops, stagecoach rides, museum tours, old timey music and food. Cost: \$8 admis-

sion; historical society members and youths under 12 free. Website: www.yamhillcountyhistory.org

Saturday, Aug. 26

Oregon AgLink Barn Dance. 6-10 p.m. Victor Point Farms, 13166 Riches Road SE, Silverton, Ore. Ben Rue will be the featured performer. Over 21, please. Tickets are \$75 and available online only. Website: www.Aglink.org

Saturday-Sunday Aug. 26-27

Importer Safety Training. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monarch Hotel, 12566 SW 93rd St., Clackamas, Ore. Food Safety Modernization Act training for the safe importation of human or animal food. Two-day course with Food and Drug Administration standardized curriculum. Certificates awarded upon completion. Cost: \$850. Website: <http://www.feedpctraining.com/fsvp.html>

Sunday, Aug. 27

Summer Farm Day. Noon-4 p.m. Ruby & Amber's Farm, Dorena, Ore. Sponsored by the Willamette Farm & Food Coalition. Website: willamettefarmandfood.org

Friday, Aug. 25-Monday, Sept. 4

Oregon State Fair. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center, 2330 17th St. NE, Salem, Ore. Website: <https://oregonstatefair.org/>

Wednesday, Aug. 30

Grazing Lease Workshop. 9:30 a.m.-noon. Stanislaus County Farm Bureau, 1201 L St., Modesto, Calif. Speakers will include certified rangeland managers Tim and Clayton Koopmann, who will

discuss identifying land and preparing lease proposals. The California Cattlemen's Association is the sponsor. Cost: Free. Website: calcattlemen.org

Rice Experiment Station Field Day. 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Rice Experiment Station, 955 Butte City Highway, Biggs, Calif. Website: <http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/>

Friday, Sept. 1-Saturday, Sept. 9

Eastern Idaho State Fair. 8 a.m.-10 p.m. Eastern Idaho State Fairgrounds, 97 Park St., Blackfoot, Idaho. Website: <https://funatthefair.com/>

Friday, Sept. 1-Sunday, Sept. 24

Washington State Fair. 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Fairground in Puyallup, 110 9th Ave. SW, Puyallup, Wash. The Washington State Fair, commonly referred to as the Puyallup Fair, is the largest single attraction held annually in the state of Washington. Closed Tuesdays and Sept. 6. Website: www.thefair.com/

Tuesday-Friday Sept. 5-8

Western Apicultural Society's 40th annual conference. University of California-Davis Harry H. Laidlaw Jr. Honey Bee Research Facility, Davis, Calif. Bee Culture magazine editor Kim Flotton will address "The Rapidly Changing Bee Scene," beekeeper and author Les Crowder will discuss managing honeybees in top bar hives; and bee expert Larry Connor will cover "Keeping Your Bees Alive and Growing." Cost: \$225. Website: www.westernapiculturalsociety.org/

Tuesday-Thursday Sept. 5-7

The National Heirloom Expo. Sonoma County Fairgrounds, 1350 Bennett Valley Road, Santa Rosa, Calif. The 6th Annual National Heirloom Exposition will feature a wide array of natural vendors and speakers from across the country and beyond. Website: www.theheirloom.com

Wednesday, Sept. 13

FSPCA Preventive Controls for Human Food — One-Day Blended Course. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 1741 Harrison St., Twin Falls, Idaho. The new Food Safety Modernization Act regulation requires every processing facility to have a trained resource person or "Preventive Controls Qualified Individual" who has completed a specialized training course (such as this one) that was developed by the Food Safety Preventive Controls Alliance and is recognized by the FDA. This person will oversee the implementation of the facility's food safety plan and other key tasks. Jeff Kronenberg, an assistant professor at the University of Idaho and Food Safety Specialist at TechHelp, will offer this One-Day FSPCA Blended Course as an alternative to the traditional 2.5-day course. Cost: \$330. Website: www.techhelp.org

Thursday, Sept. 14

Food Safety Internal Auditor Workshop. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Hilton Garden Inn, 1741 Harrison St., Twin Falls, Idaho. A comprehensive audit system is essential to a company's food safety and product quality. It provides confirmation that systems and procedures are operating effectively and identifies areas that require improvement. The Internal Auditor Workshop will teach you how to conduct internal audits in

your facility against one of the GFSI Audit Schemes, which are becoming a standard for the food industry as a tool for assuring food safety and regulatory compliance and have become a customer requirement for many processors. Many of the schemes require formal, documented training for personnel who conduct internal auditing. This one-day course will provide attendees with a full understanding of audit requirements as well as promote personal professional development. Cost: \$330. Website: www.techhelp.org

Friday, Sept. 15

2nd Annual Rice Weed Course. 8 a.m.-4:25 p.m. Rice Experiment Station, 955 Butte City Highway, Biggs, Calif. Website: <http://cesutter.ucanr.edu/>

Saturday, Sept. 23

Goat Education Day. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension Center Auditorium, 569 Hanley Road, Central Point, Ore. Choose four classes from a selection of 11, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, for \$35. Or choose two morning classes and cheesemaking in the afternoon for \$50. Class topics are geared to both beginner and advanced goat owners from Getting Ready for Kidding Season and Holistic Goat Care to the foundations of Nutrition and Feed and the Making of Goat Milk Soaps and Lotions. Presenters include Dr. Charles Estill, OSU veterinarian; Gianacis Caldwell, author; and Christina Strickland and others from the Rogue Valley Dairy Goat Association. Register online at <http://bit.ly/JacksonGoatEdDay2017> or call 541-776-7371. Ask about a youth discount. Cost: \$35 to \$50. Website: <http://extension.oregonstate.edu/sores/SF-classes>

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