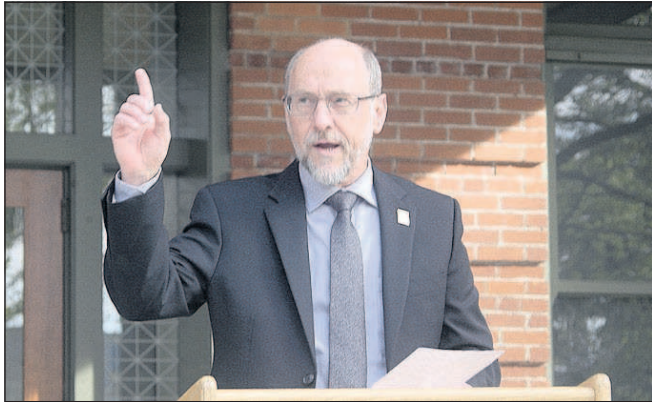


'It's been a good run:' OSU ag dean looks to retirement

By ERIC MORTENSON
Capital Press



Eric Mortenson/Capital Press File

Dan Arp, dean of OSU's College of Agricultural Sciences, speaks at the dedication of the college's restored Strand Hall. He has announced his plans to retire next summer.

wine, cheese, yogurt and other kinds of food. A Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems within OSU Extension reaches producers and processors who might have been overlooked before.

The Oregon Wine Research Institute is a partnership be-

tween OSU and the state's celebrated industry. OSU's Food Innovation Center in Portland is a rare ag experiment station in an urban setting. College of ag enrollment is at a record of about 2,600 students, and OSU's agriculture and forestry pro-

grams were rated 13th best among world universities.

During Arp's time, Oregon's economy recovered and the Legislature provided funding for 25 new positions. Fundraising and private gifts brought in \$40 million.

Ramaswamy said his successor brought a sense of "scholarly enterprise" to the College of Ag. "At the end of the day, you've got to have top notch science to help agriculture," he said.

To top it off, Arp also was the beneficiary of a \$25 million restoration of Strand Hall, home of OSU's ag program for the past century. The work, planned and funded before he was named dean, nonetheless returned the 115,000-square-foot building to its place as a campus centerpiece.

"It's been a good run," Arp said.

He said he's proud of his

work and the timing of retirement feels right. Looking back, he hopes his OSU colleagues and the state's producers and other stakeholders will remember him as a good collaborator, someone they enjoyed working with.

Arp said OSU has developed a broad "soil to shelf" approach in its agricultural programs.

"That's something I've continued to try to foster," he said. "We are an incredibly diverse college, and part of that is a reflection of the diversity of food, ag and natural resources in the state."

He praised the ag college's faculty and researchers, say-

ing they understand the importance of engaging the public in what they do.

"These folks would be stars at any university," Arp said.

"The students, too," he said. "They're really quite amazing. They are passionate about what they do; they're here for all the right reasons."

Arp started at OSU in a botany and plant pathology position in 1990 and later headed the department and was named a "distinguished professor." In 2008 he was named dean of the University Honors College, and four years later returned to the College of Agriculture.

Berry farm defends response to worker's illness

Fired pickers had walked out

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press



Courtesy of Community to Community

Farmworkers who walked out and were then fired from a Western Washington blueberry farm march in protest in Whatcom County. A farm executive says there's no truth to claims a worker who died was mistreated and that medical records eventually will confirm the farm's version of events.

treatment sooner, said Edgar Franks, an organizer with Community to Community, a farmworker advocacy group.

"They were upset it had to reach that level," he said. "We want to make sure the truth gets out there."

The dismissed workers, now numbering more than 70, were camping Aug. 11 on a supporter's lawn near Sumas and about a mile from the 600-acre farm, which is owned by a California farm family.

Woolley said the company will pay for the workers to go home. Franks said the workers are conferring with lawyers and concerned about their ability to find work again in the U.S.

"They feel that by speaking out for Honesto and calling attention to the situation, they're going to be blacklisted," he said.

Labor and Industries spokesman Tim Church said that the agency has met with farm managers and started to interview workers.

The agency will investigate whether workplace conditions contributed to Silva's death. The investigation could take up to six months, Church said.

Also, the department will conduct a separate investiga-

tion into whether the farm was complying with employment standards related to such matters as meals, rest breaks and pay statements, Church said.

He said the agency received information from several sources, prompting the investigation unrelated to Silva's death.

"We follow Facebook, and there were posts on Facebook," Church said. "We want to get to the bottom of it."

Woolley said he was confident state investigators will find working conditions at the farm are good.

"I don't feel there is real merit to those complaints, and if there were we would look into it," he said.

According to Sarbanand Farms, Silva, who was reportedly 28 years old, was brought into the office around lunchtime Aug. 2.

Farm management learned from the nephew, who is about the same age as his uncle, that Silva was diabetic. A farm manager immediately called 911, according to Sarbanand.

Woolley said Silva had worked 3 1/2 hours that morning.

He said the company pulls workers in from the field if temperatures are judged too hot, though the company has

no definite cut-off temperature. The high temperature that day at the farm was 90 degrees, according to the company.

Biotech company studies GMO clover

Field trial linked to forage digestibility

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press



Courtesy of Forest & Kim Starr

Forage Genetics, a biotech developer, is conducting a field test of genetically modified white clover.

"isolation cage" to prevent cross-pollination, he said.

It's too early to determine whether the gene from the biotech white clover variety will be transferred to alfalfa, as the research and development program may last a decade or longer, Temple said.

"A lot of testing and analytical work will need to be completed successfully before decisions are made on how best to deploy the technology," he said.

Condensed tannins bind to proteins, preventing them from being digested too quickly and improving the cow's protein absorption, said John Grabber, a dairy forage researcher with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

However, if the cow ingests too many condensed tannins, the binding mechanism will actually impede digestion of protein, he said.

"We don't want to protect it too much so the protein goes right through the cow and comes out the other end," Grabber said.

While one study has shown that birdsfoot trefoil — a plant that naturally contains condensed tannins — boosts milk production, other studies haven't found this correlation, he said.

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