

BIOFILTER

Putting worms, microbes to work



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Manure water, left, becomes clean irrigation water, right, in the BIDA system. The clean water is a dark tea color from wood shavings in the filter.

A young Washington dairy farmer and a Chilean civil engineer use unique system to treat wastewater



Austin Allred's is the largest BIDA dairy system in the world, capable of handling 200,000 gallons per day.

By **DAN WHEAT**
Capital Press

ROYAL CITY, Wash. — Austin Allred doesn't think of himself as an innovator. But at 27, he operates the only dairy in Washington state and just the third in the nation using a unique low-energy biological filter that turns manure water into clean irrigation water.

He does it with a system based on millions of worms and microbes.

After leaving the primary solids separator, manure wastewater flows into the biofilter of wood shavings, worms and microbes. Within four hours the worms and microbes have removed most of the nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium from the water, allowing it be used as irrigation water.

Turn to BIOFILTER, Page 12



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

From left, Mai Ann Healy and Alex Villagra of BioFiltro, and dairyman Austin Allred with the new BIDA system.



Capital Press graphic

Some wolves may have become 'habituated' to eating cattle



By **ERIC MORTENSON**
Capital Press

Tracks indicated the 500-pound calf churned 150 feet up a slope, leaving blood splattered on four logs, before going down in a pile of Meacham Pack wolves.

There wasn't much left when a ranch hand found the carcass Aug. 19, perhaps two or three days after the attack. Most of the calf had been devoured, except the vertebrae with

ribs, pelvis and tail still attached. The calf's lower jaw and contents of its rumen were nearby.

It was the pack's fourth confirmed attack within a week, all on livestock grazing on a 4,000-acre private, forested pasture in the Sheep Creek area of Umatilla County. The producer asked ODFW to take "lethal control" against the Meacham Pack as allowed under Phase 3 of Oregon's wolf management program.

The rancher wanted them all dead. The wildlife agency authorized killing two of them, an incremental approach it had taken earlier in August with Wallowa County's Harl Butte Pack, which attacked livestock eight times since July 2016.

In that case, ODFW quickly shot two adult Harl Butte wolves, then a third and fourth in the days that followed as it appeared the pack was still going after calves.

The Oregon Cattlemen's Association argued that ODFW's approach was a waste of time. Even with four dead, the Harl Butte Pack consisted of six adults and three growing pups – a 33-pound pup was unintentionally trapped, then released unharmed, as ODFW pursued the adults.

The Meacham Pack, meanwhile, had seven members at the end of

Turn to WOLVES, Page 12

Onion industry scrambles to rebuild damaged facilities

By **SEAN ELLIS**
Capital Press

NYSSA, Ore. — The Idaho-Oregon onion industry's rebuilding efforts following the heavy damage to storage and packing facilities caused by this year's harsh winter are in full swing and going well.

But with the main onion

harvest set to begin about mid-September, some onion growers and shippers say they won't be ready in time.

"There are definitely people who are delayed," said Shay Myers, general manager of Owyhee Produce, an onion grower-shipper company in Nyssa, Ore.

About 60 onion storage sheds and packing facilities

in the Treasure Valley of Idaho and Oregon either collapsed or sustained major damage under the weight of several feet of snow and ice.

Owyhee Produce lost four storage sheds. Its packing facility was damaged but continued operating.

Turn to ONIONS, Page 12



Sean Ellis/Capital Press File

An excavator clears onions damaged when a storage building in Nyssa, Ore., collapsed under the weight of snow and ice in January. The onion industry lost 60 buildings during the winter and is racing to rebuild in time for this year's main harvest.

EVER WONDERED WHAT TO DO WITH THAT OLD, WORN OUT COMMODITY TRAILER?

NEW SALES • REBIN PROGRAM • TRAILER PARTS • REPAIR & SERVICE • CUSTOM MANUFACTURING



Our Rebin Program can turn your old trailer into a new trailer! We will remove all working mechanical parts, and replace the bin with a new Stainless Steel STC Bin on your existing running gear. All parts deemed reusable are reinstalled on the new bin. *All of this at the fraction of the cost of a new trailer!*

WWW.STCTRAILERS.COM



494 W. Hwy 39
Blackfoot, ID 83321
208-785-1364