

# Capital Press

The West's **Ag** Weekly

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017

★ VOLUME 90, NUMBER 42

WWW.CAPITALPRESS.COM

\$2.00

**“We don’t want to be a California company that’s trying to play Oregon. We want that group to feel very much Oregonian.”**

Mitch Davis, a Jackson Family senior vice president



Photos by Eric Mortenson/Capital Press  
Anxious to reassure Oregon’s wine pioneers that it did not intend to “bigfoot” the industry, California-based Jackson Family Wines chose Eugenia Keegan to head its expanding Oregon operations.

## Report: Most Northwest ag commodities barely profitable

By JOHN O’CONNELL  
Capital Press

Northwest agricultural producers will see at least a small profit this season from most of the crops they raise, according to a report by Northwest Farm Credit Services.

The financial cooperative’s quarterly Market Snapshot concludes producers of cattle, potatoes, sugar beets, onions, hay, apples and wine should do better than break-even for this season’s crop.

Dairy producers are operating around the break-even point, and wheat farmers are expected to lose money. USDA forecasts the all-wheat price for the current crop will range between \$4.30 and \$4.90 per bushel.

“We have record-high grain stocks in the world, and they don’t rot,” said University of Idaho Extension economist Garth Taylor.

Besides wheat, Taylor agrees with the report that most producers should be OK.

“The big picture on this is we’re not in the boom years on agriculture,” Taylor said. “We’re back in that steady slog of just barely above break-even for many of our crops.”

**“We’re back in that steady slog of just barely above break-even for many of our crops.”**

Garth Taylor,  
University of Idaho Extension economist

The break-even point varies from farm to farm, depending on the debt load, cost of inputs and labor costs compared to the yield and price of the crop.

According to the report, cattle producers who market calves are benefiting from a recent price rally fueled by growing beef exports. UI Extension economist Ben Eborn said U.S. beef exports to date are up 14.5 percent from 2016, and November futures for feeder calves are now \$1.56 per pound, up from \$1.40 in mid-August. Though the U.S. beef herd continues to expand, Eborn said the value of the dollar is softening and improving the export outlook.

Feedlot operators, however, continue to operate below the break-even point, while spending more on calves, said Lewisville cattle feeder Duwayne Skaar.

“Something has got to give on our end,” Skaar said.

The report finds hay growers are making slightly above break-even margins, with a low supply of high-quality hay and year-to-date exports that are 25 percent above last year’s pace contributing to higher prices.

UI Extension forage specialist Glenn Shewmaker anticipates a widening gap between the prices of feeder hay and dairy-grade hay.

“It sounds like quite a bit of hay in Eastern Idaho on all cuttings got some rain and a lot of hay around Kimberly got rained on,” Shewmaker said.

Sugar beet farmers say damage to sugarcane caused by hurricanes and recent updates to an agreement preventing Mexico

Turn to REPORT, Page 12

# BIG CALIFORNIA WINERY ARRIVES IN OREGON WELCOME

When Jackson Family Wines arrived in the Willamette Valley, a small circle of producers provided the welcome

By ERIC MORTENSON  
Capital Press

**M**CMINNVILLE, Ore. — Friends in Oregon’s wine industry describe Eugenia Keegan as a petite “powerhouse.” Five-foot-2, maybe, and fierce in the best meaning of the word, one said. A go-getter personality tempered by competence, warmth, intelligence and grace.

This is her 42nd harvest, as vintners count the years. She’s a native Californian who followed love to Oregon 15 years ago. In previous career turns she’s been a winemaker, owned a wine distributorship and worked as a wine business consultant. She’s had her own label and has an ownership share of a vineyard in France.

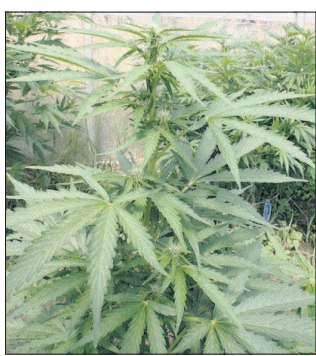
If it were up to her, she’d spend every day in the vineyard. She says choosing when to pick the grapes is the season’s most crucial decision.

Turn to WINE, Page 12



Emilie McKinny, a seasonal intern at Jackson Family Wine’s new winery in McMinnville, Ore., checks a tank where grapes pressed into juice.

## Potential pot producers seek dismissal of lawsuit



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File  
Marijuana plants grow at a farm near McMinnville, Ore. Yamhill County neighbors have sought to stop a proposed marijuana farm.

### Neighbors fear grape damage from ‘foul-smelling particles’

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

McMINNVILLE, Ore. — Aspiring marijuana growers in Oregon’s Yamhill County have asked a judge to dismiss a lawsuit against their operation filed by neighboring landowners over potential odors.

The complaint was filed earlier this year against Steven and Mary Wagner, as well as their son Richard,

who planned to grow and process marijuana on their property near McMinnville, Ore.

The Wagners argue that two of their neighbors, Harihara and Parvathy Mahesh, are barred from filing trespass and nuisance claims under Oregon’s “right to farm” statute, which shields growers from such complaints.

Claims filed by their other neighbors — the Mom-

tazi family, which owns nearby vineyards — should also be thrown out because the Wagners haven’t trespassed or interfered with their land, according to defendants.

“You don’t get to file a lawsuit with no facts, sheer conjecture, pure speculation about what will happen,” said Allison Bizzano, attorney for the Wagners.

Turn to POT, Page 12

**DON’T MISS OUT!**

Subscribe to the Capital Press E-mail Newsletters and stay informed on the topics that matter most to you.

Visit [www.CapitalPress.com/Newsletters](http://www.CapitalPress.com/Newsletters) and sign up today!



Capital Press  
The West’s Ag Weekly



7 29467 70125 0