

# Ag Expo funds scholarships for three OSU students

By **GEOFF PARKS**  
For the Capital Press

Three agriculture students at Oregon State University are the winners of scholarships awarded by the Willamette Valley Ag Association, signifying the Willamette Valley Ag Expo's commitment to supporting educational opportunities.

Each year the association awards scholarships from some of the proceeds derived with the Willamette Valley Ag Expo.

Students with a focus on agriculture business and production are encouraged to apply.

The association awards an average of \$6,500 to several students each year.

Mitchell Evers of Banks will graduate in December with a major in crop and soil science with options in agronomy in addition to Spanish language and culture.

Kalli Sherer of Tillamook is a second-year student at OSU's College of Veterinary Medicine.

She earlier graduated from OSU with a bachelor of science degree in animal sciences.

Ericka Lepschat graduated from Banks High School and will earn her bachelor's degree in agricultural science (education and leadership) from OSU in 2019.

High school students who are sophomores and above must possess a grade-point average of 3.0 or higher to be considered.

Evers said the scholarship money will be put to good use during the final term of his education.

"The money will be split and used entirely to pay for tuition, fees, housing and food to get me through this last term," Evers said. "I want to be a part of the industry that the world relies on every single day to provide staples like clothes, homes and food."

Sherer said she is "extremely passionate about agriculture, and it is very humbling to receive support from

the industry that I work so hard for. I am very excited and appreciative to be a recipient of the WVAA scholarship — it's great to see scholarships supporting the future of the ag industry."

Lepschat wants to continue her OSU education after receiving her bachelor's degree next year, with plans to "hopefully earn my master's degree in 2020."

"This scholarship has lifted a huge burden off my chest," Lepschat said. "It is making it possible for me to attend the school of my dreams, to achieve my dreams of receiving a higher education and making a positive impact on others' lives."



Mitch Evers



Ericka Lepschat



Kalli Sherer

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