

# Idaho House ag committee again OKs tougher trespass bill

By SEAN ELLIS  
Capital Press

BOISE — After almost four hours of testimony March 6, a bill backed by dozens of Idaho farm groups that would consolidate and strengthen Idaho's trespassing laws was sent to the House floor with a "do-pass" recommendation.

Again.  
The House Agricultural Affairs Committee on Feb. 14 voted 11-1 to approve a bill by Rep. Judy Boyle, a Republican rancher from Midvale, that amends the state's trespassing laws.

Boyle rewrote the bill to address concerns of sportsmen's groups and others opposed to it.

Following another four hours of testimony during a public hearing March 6, the committee voted 11-3 to send the updated version of the legislation to the House with a do-pass recommendation.

The legislation is supported by dozens of agricultural groups.

It eases the "private property" posting requirements that property owners have to follow, which currently include placing orange "no trespassing" markings every 660 feet.

The reporting requirements are burdensome to landowners and are not resulting in trespassing prosecutions, said Gary Allen, an attorney representing a 34-member coalition



Capital Press File

Idaho's Capitol. The House ag committee has passed a bill toughening the state's trespass laws.

of farm and other groups that support the bill.

"The current law is not working for landowners," he said. "We have a coalition of 34 groups that is saying that it isn't working."

The legislation significantly increases penalties for trespassing offenses that include damage. Under

current Idaho code, someone convicted of trespassing faces a \$50 fine.

Under Boyle's bill, someone convicted of a civil trespass violation with damage faces a \$500 minimum fine for a first conviction, \$1,500 fine for a second conviction and \$5,000 fine for a third conviction.

Someone convicted of a criminal

trespass with damage faces a \$1,500 fine for a first conviction, \$5,000 fine for a second conviction and a \$15,000 fine and a felony for a third conviction.

"The current penalties for trespassing do not act as a deterrent," states a letter submitted in support of the bill by Idaho Grain Producers

Association President Dwight Little. "Increasing penalties and making them more meaningful will truly act as a deterrent."

Little said IGPA members "also appreciate that this bill works to clarify and simplify landowner requirements for the posting of private property."

The bill requires people to get written permission slips from property owners before using their land and several committee members and people who testified questioned the practicality of that.

A letter from Food Producers of Idaho in support of the bill noted that Idaho is the fastest growing state in the nation and two of the counties with the largest population increases, Ada and Canyon, have significant agriculture industries.

"As the population has increased and the clarity between agriculture and urban has blurred, there is more chance for confusion by citizens as to what is private property," the FPI letter states. "House Bill 658 helps bring together fragmented sections of Idaho Code addressing trespass and builds a comprehensive outline going forward."

The letter says the bill is a "tremendous improvement to the current law, which is often confusing and does not provide adequate deterrence for penalties for those who do not respect the rights of a property owner."



www.CoastalFarm.com

## PROUD TO SUPPORT Members & Families of FFA



Albany - Eugene - Roseburg - Woodburn - Cornelius - Oregon City - Gresham - The Dalles - White City  
Redmond - Klamath Falls, OR • Yakima - East Wenatchee - Auburn - Mount Vernon, Marysville, Sequim, WA

11-2/100

Proud Sponsor of



Doerfler Farms

12333 Silver Falls Hwy SE  
Aumsville, OR 97325  
Phone: (503) 769-2205

11-2/106

NW Ag Solutions

OREGON & WASHINGTON



- Hazelnut Consulting
- Hazelnut Management
- Aerial Imaging
- Spraying
- Orchard Aeration
- Field Layout
- Orchard Removal



Proud Supporter of FFA

Hollie

503-602-0684  
nwagsolutions.com

11-2/109



THE TRACTOR STORE  
(541) 342-5464  
5450 W. 11<sup>th</sup>, Eugene, OR

11-2/100

YOUR AD HERE!



Proud Supporter of FFA

Call Today!  
1-800-882-6789

11-2/101

## OREGON FFA members gear up for annual convention



The annual Oregon FFA State Convention is one of the highlights of the year for the organization's members.

Photo by CDarland Photography

In Oregon, spring break is set for the last week of March, and many Oregonians will be flocking to Hood or Bachelor for some time on the slopes, or perhaps to the coast to avoid snow altogether.

However, 3,000 individuals, including students, teachers and volunteers will travel from across the state to Central Oregon, united by the blue and gold of the Oregon FFA.

Hosted in Redmond, Ore., the 2018 Oregon FFA State Convention will be held March 23-26 at the Deschutes County Fair and Expo Center. The theme of the convention, "Make Your Mark," will set the precedent for the event, as students gather to compete and participate in several events.

During the weekend, six general sessions and one business session will be held by the six current State Officers. Between these sessions, students have a wide range of options when it comes to making good use of their time at convention. Many will compete in several different Career Development Events, be recognized for their agricultural proficiencies, and awarded their FFA State Degrees. Career Development Events will determine the teams and individuals that will go on to represent Oregon at the National FFA Convention in October.

In addition, visiting state officers from different states will travel from across the country to facilitate leadership workshops for students. On Saturday night, the Wilco Benefit Concert will feature the opening act of Ned Ledoux, followed by Danielle Bradbery, 2013 winner of The Voice. Hosted in benefit of the Oregon FFA Foundation, the concert is open to the public, and tickets are currently for sale.

Perhaps one of the most valuable assets the convention has to offer is the Career Show. At the largest it's ever been, approximately 60 different booths and vendors will be open throughout the weekend. Representatives from colleges, universities and trade organizations will be present, and ready to engage in conversation with FFA members. Students will have the unique opportunity to explore future career options, and perhaps have a conversation with a future employer.

The convention will close on Monday, as the 2017-2018 Oregon FFA State Officer team retires, and hand the responsibility as the leadership of the Association to the next team. There is no doubt that students will take this opportunity to be impacted in a positive way during the event, and be inspired to make their own mark as the next generation of leaders.

HDH | HighDesertHay

Feed Store  
Quality

Farmgate  
Prices

541-668-7658

By Fox Hollow Ranch  
HighDesertHay.com

11-2/109



Proud Supporters of

11-2/109

RIVERBROOK  
FARM • HAULING SERVICE  
Brooks, OR

www.riverbrooktrucking.com

- Local & Nationwide
- Farm Equipment
- Heavy Equipment



888-393-1819

11-2/106



D. Stutzman  
FARMS

www.stutzman-environmental.com

Proud Supporter of FFA

P.O. Box 307 • Canby, OR 97013  
888-877-7665

11-2/106

IOKA  
MARKETING

503-873-6498  
877-FOR-IOKA

www.iokamarketing.com

Silverton, Oregon

Proud Supporter of FFA

11-2/106



## Klopfenstein Ag Service Custom Field Tiling

klopfensteinag.com

SILVERTON, OR  
503-932-0766



11-2/110

11-2/HOU