



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Jake Johnson, shop foreman at Columbia River Steel Supply in East Wenatchee, Wash., lifts angle iron steel on March 20. Steel suppliers are already raising prices in anticipation of 25 percent tariffs on most imported steel set to take effect March 23.

New tariff sparks ag steel price increases

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

Agricultural steel users are already seeing higher prices due to President Donald Trump's proposed 25 percent tariff on imports.

Mark De Kleine, an agricultural engineering consultant in Prosser, Wash., said he found big price jumps in just a few days when sourcing trellis wire for orchards.

"A 25 percent increase in steel — that's going to be passed down to the consumer and be difficult for the ag industry. There's a lot of steel in one acre of trellis," De Kleine said.

Bud McIntyre, manager of Moses Lake Steel Supply in Moses Lake, Wash., said he's seen 20 percent hikes but that increases are "all over the board because not everyone is going at the same time and rate."

Inventory and type of steel

also factors into the price. Coil, tubing and pipe, most of which are imported, are increasing the most, he said.

"Steel that was \$40 per hundredweight a month ago is in the mid-\$50s now," he said.

Trump announced a 25 percent tariff on steel imports and a 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports on March 8, effective March 23, with exemptions for Mexico and Canada. The action was recommended in a U.S. Department of Commerce study, released Jan. 11, that steel imports are "weakening" the U.S. economy and threaten "to impair national security."

Foreign competition has reduced U.S. steel production and tariffs should reduce imports to a level that will enable U.S. steel mills to operate at 80 percent or more of their rated production capacity, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross concluded.

Since 2000, foreign competition and displacement of

domestic steel by "excessive imports" have resulted in the closure or idling of 10 basic oxygen furnace facilities, the study said. That's a 50 percent reduction and a 35 percent decrease in steel industry employment and caused the industry to operate on average with negative net income since 2009, the study said.

Previously, Presidents George W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter and Richard Nixon all used quotas or tariffs on steel imports at less than the current import penetration level, which is greater than 30 percent, the study said. Clinton and Reagan each did so three times, Carter twice.

"Hopefully, this (tariff) will spark some ability for the U.S. to produce more steel," McIntyre said. "Yes, it will be painful for awhile but if we can stay the course in the long run it will be beneficial."

Moses Lake Steel Supply is

a fairly small steel distributor and owns Columbia River Steel Supply in East Wenatchee. The company buys mostly domestic steel, with some from Nucor Steel plants in Seattle and Utah.

"They have taken some price increases on angle iron, flat bar and channel material but not nearly as bad as tubing and piping," McIntyre said of Nucor.

Some companies are using the situation as "an opportunity to make money," but steel producers and processors are mostly basing prices on what they figure their replacement cost of the material will be, he said.

Price increases will be seen on steel fence posts, barbed wire, components of tree fruit packing lines — "anything made out of steel," he said.

Steve Case, purchasing agent for Wilson Orchard and Vineyard Supply, Yakima, said he buys some stakes, wire and steel posts from Canada, which is exempt.

Certification goes beyond organic

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Online
<https://regenorganic.org/>

The Regenerative Organic Alliance, led by the Rodale Institute, is launching a certification program focused on holistic agriculture that its sponsors say goes beyond simple sustainability.

The Regenerative Organic Certification will stand on the shoulders of the National Organic Program, and only products certified organic by USDA are eligible.

But ROC will raise those standards and fill in the gaps of that program that evolved by either design or default, said Jeff

Moyer, executive director of the Rodale Institute.

ROC

will address the standards consumers perceive to be part of NOP through its three pillars of soil health, animal welfare and social fairness, he said.

"It's important to think about what it really means to be regenerative; it's more than just a word," he said.

Rodale's work to support and strengthen organic standards has always been based on a standard of continuous improvement to resources. But that concept was given up in the National Organic Program, or NOP, which allows the use of chemicals, he said.

The ROC will address continuous improvement in soil health and also go further than NOP in addressing animal welfare. It will also include social fairness for producers and workers, which isn't an aspect of the NOP conversation, he said.

Rodale's founder, J.I. Rodale, was the first to link

healthy soil to healthy food to healthy humans, he said.

"Too often we don't pay attention to that," he said.

Rodale's son, Robert Rodale, later recognized that farming by organic principles could mitigate climate change, he said.

"Farming can either create some of the world's greatest challenges or solve them. Regenerative organic agriculture is our opportunity to solve them," he said.

Healthy soil, clean air and clean water are just as important as yield and profit, and people and communi-

ties matter, he said.

ROC will link together all the values that matter to consumers to improve the health of the planet and people around the world, he said.

Spearheading the effort along with Rodale are Dr. Bronner's — a major brand of natural soap worldwide committed to social justice and environmental sustainability — and Patagonia, an outdoor company committed to environmental activism.

ROC was created with the intent for the standard to become adopted by companies and producers on a broad scale and has already gotten a lot of attention from other brands, Moyer said.

Some brands will use the ROC logo and label, and others will use it as an internal control that food, fiber and other products are produced in accordance with their values and the values of their customers, he said.



Ocean Spray seeks FDA approval for health claim

Co-op touts infection-fighting cranberries

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Ocean Spray is asking the Food and Drug Administration to let it claim that cranberries may help prevent re-

curring episodes of urinary tract infections in women.

Cranberries have long been a folk remedy for such afflictions. The Massachusetts-based grower cooperative hopes to move the claim from "old wives' tale" to one that the government recognizes has a scientific basis, Ocean Spray spokeswoman Kellyanne Dignan said Tuesday.

"We really want to have a clear message to consumers," she said.

Ocean Spray petitioned the FDA in September to use the claim in its advertising. The FDA has indicated it will make a decision by Oct. 5 and recently put the request out for public review. As of Tuesday, the FDA had not received any comments. The comment period ends May 7.

Ocean Spray, whose members include growers in Washington and Oregon, seeks to make a "qualified health claim." Scientific evidence must support the statement, though it doesn't have to meet a more rigorous standard to make an "authorized health claim."

The cranberry industry has

been searching for ways to reduce a huge surplus that's depressing farmer income. The USDA is considering a petition by the Cranberry Marketing Committee to order that 5 percent of the 2017 crop be diverted from the market. The industry also has tried to brand itself as "America's original superfruit."

Dignan declined to say how much Ocean Spray spent preparing the petition to the FDA. Ocean Spray last fall announced it will spend \$10 million over the next five years on researching the antibacterial properties of cranberries.

"Both Ocean Spray and

the cranberry industry have talked about the health benefits for decades," Dignan said. "This really is a continuation of that."

The FDA does not have the authority to review claims by dietary supplements. Numerous products are marketed as containing cranberry concentrate and able to cleanse urinary tracts.

Ocean Spray is asking the FDA to use its authority under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to permit a narrow claim. The claim is that the daily consumption of cranberries, cranberry juice, dried cranberries and powdered cranberry may help prevent — though not treat — recurring urinary tract infections in healthy women.

To back the claim, Ocean Spray stresses three studies that concluded women who received a daily dose of cranberry juice or capsules were

20 percent to 58 percent less likely to suffer a new infection than women who took a placebo.

Ocean Spray funded the most recent and largest of the three studies. Some 185 women with a history of recent infections drank cranberry juice, while 188 women were served a placebo. After 24 weeks, 39 of the women who drank cranberry juice suffered new infections, compared to 67 women who drank the placebo, according to an abstract of an article published in 2016 in the American Society for Nutrition.

The study's authors were associated with Ocean Spray, Boston University School of Medicine and Biofortis Clinical Research, a research organization based in Illinois. They concluded that drinking cranberry juice lowered the number of new infections in healthy women.

LEGAL
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION
Probate Department
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF Ann D. Vasconi, Deceased No. 18PB00331
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed Personal Representative of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present them to the undersigned Personal Representative in care of the undersigned attorney at: 319 Sixth Street SW, Albany, OR 97321 within four months after the date of the first publication of this notice, as stated below, or such claims may be barred.
All persons whose rights may be affected by the proceedings in this estate may obtain additional information from the records of the Court, the Personal Representative, or the attorney for the Personal Representative.
DATED and first published March 9, 2018.
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Unit 173: Marc Wilson
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• Unit #33 Jamie Meza and Judie Durham
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• Unit #22 John F Oneal
• Unit #79 Nicky Osborn
• Unit #186 - #193 Juanita Thompson
• Unit #230 Sandi Satterfield
• Unit #130 Kristine Quintin
• Unit #39 - #155 Linda Contreras
• Unit #AS - #43 Cetina Ludwig
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LEGAL
NOTICE OF OREGON MINT COMMISSION BUDGET HEARING
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to ORS 576.416 (5), on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at 10:00 a.m., at the White Buffalo Bistro, 4040 Westcliff Drive, Hood River, Oregon upon a proposed budget for operation of the Mint Commission during the fiscal year July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.
At this hearing any producer of Oregon Mint oil has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed budget, a copy of which is available for public inspection, under reasonable circumstances, in the office of each County Extension Agent in Oregon. For further information, contact the Oregon Mint Commission business office, P.O. Box 3366, Salem, Oregon 97302, telephone 503-364-2944. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please make any requests for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodation for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Commission office at 503-364-2944.
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