

# Harvest Capital is Northwest Ag Show's title sponsor

SALEM, Ore. — EO Media Events LLC has reached an agreement with Harvest Capital Company to be title sponsor of the 2019 Northwest Ag Show taking place Jan. 16-18, 2019, at the Oregon State Fair & Exposition Center.

The Northwest Ag Show presented by Harvest Capital Company will showcase the best from the agriculture industry and its associated businesses and organizations to provide useful information to attendees regarding equipment, best practices, job train-

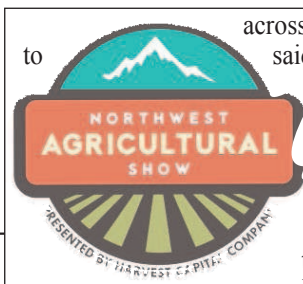
ing, state-sanctioned certifications, updates on the local ag economy, and legal, tax and other financial issues facing all farmers.

"We are pleased to be a part of the 2019 NW Ag Show and to celebrate all aspects of agriculture," said Brian L. Field, president of Harvest Capital Company. "Our company goal is to help strengthen the ag industry in the Northwest and we are excited to partner with EO Media Events and with the show's other sponsors and exhibitors to highlight this important element of the local

economy."

In addition to partnerships with Harvest Capital Company, the show has also confirmed participation by Kubota Tractor Corporation and Coastal Farm and Ranch as major show sponsors. Additional sponsorships are being finalized and will be announced over the next few weeks.

"Response to next year's ag show has been enthusiastic



across the West Coast," said Michael Keith, the show's director. "We are thankful to have Harvest Capital Company as title sponsor and look forward to working with them to provide unique programming at the show to benefit the local ag community."

The show will coincide with the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce's SAIF Agri-Business Banquet on Friday, Jan.

18 to form the foundation of an Ag Week celebration for the Salem area. The week will also include educational and career workshops from the Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation, a fund-raising partnership with Oregon FFA and the Oregon Aglink annual Board of Directors meeting.

More information about the show can be found at NorthwestAgShow.com. Additional information about Harvest Capital Company is at Harvcap.com.

Harvest Capital Company is one of the Northwest's pre-

mier agricultural real estate lenders, crafting long-term financing solutions that allow farmers and ranchers to be successful today and prepared for tomorrow's opportunities.

EO Media Events, LLC is a subsidiary of EO Media Group, a private, family-owned company with deep roots in the Pacific Northwest. EO Media Events took over management of the show in 2017. The show is powered by Capital Press, the West's leading source for agriculture news and advertising information.

## Apple, pear growers fight fire blight outbreak

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

WENATCHEE, Wash. — Fire blight, a bacteria that kills apple and pear trees, is more widespread throughout Central Washington this year than during any spring in recent memory, growers say.

"I fly a lot. I look down and see the funeral pyres burning. It's substantial and extreme on the eastern side of Royal Slope. Winchester to Ephrata seems pretty substantial and Quincy not so bad," said Mike Robinson, general manager of Double Diamond Fruit Co. in Quincy.

"Mattawa doesn't appear as bad but I've never seen this much this widespread. I've never seen this many good farmers get this much. Usually they're on top of their sprays and focused," Robinson said.

It appears worse in some areas than others but all areas have more than usual, he said.

From his airplane, Robinson said he's looked down and seen holes in orchards where trees have been removed.

On any given day in the past three weeks, he said he's seen seven to nine columns of smoke from orchards burning limbs after cutting them from trees to keep the bacteria spores from spreading. They can spread by wind, water, birds and insects. Nicholas Stephens, owner of agricultural consulting firm Columbia IPM in East Wenatchee, said he's talked with growers from Hood River, Tri-Cities, Yakima, Quincy, Wenatchee, Bridgeport, Brewster and Okanogan.

"I would say in 28 years doing this, I've never seen anything like it. It's really widespread. A lot of orchards



Photos by Dan Wheat/Capital Press  
Fire blight bacteria oozes from the branch of an apple tree in an Omak, Wash., orchard on June 6. Insects, birds, wind and water can spread infectious spores.



Limbs are piled on the ground as workers prune fire blight infections from apple trees in a Foreman Fruit Co. orchard near Omak on June 6. The limbs are often hauled away and burned.

are in grave danger, young orchards, old orchards," Stephens said.

It's a "snowball effect," a build-up of inoculum from the previous two years of perfect conditions, like this year, for fire blight, he said.

Once only a concern in pear trees, fire blight has also been known since 1993 to damage apple trees. The years 1997 and 2012 were bad years, Tim Smith, Washington State Uni-

versity Extension tree fruit specialist emeritus, has said.

Fire blight over winters in trees and reactivates in oozing cankers around blossom time. It is exacerbated by extreme heat followed quickly by rain during bloom. It attracts flies and other insects that spread it to blossoms. Within a week or two, infection is ahead of portions of trees that show withering.

Antibiotics, copper fungicides, lime sulfur, other minerals and biological controls are applied before, during and after bloom but at best are 80 percent effective, Robinson said.

"Probably the biggest difference in recent years is that it's pretty evident sprays 24 hours before the infection period are better than after," he said.

A WSU Tree Fruit website post says this is the third year of "multiple severe fire blight infection periods during bloom."

Cutting 12 to 18 inches back from withered foliage is recommended, but whole limb removal is recommended for more susceptible varieties and young, vigorous trees. Whole trees should be removed if they

have multiple strikes.

"If I have a 5-foot limb with a strike at the tip, I take the whole limb," Robinson said. "If you're super aggressive on day one usually you can get in front of the problem."

Stephens said production for individual growers will be affected but that overall crop loss may be offset by new plantings coming into production.

Cutting limbs, cankers and trees and replanting is laborious, he said.

It's unusual to have three years in a row of progressively worse conditions, he said.

James Foreman, manager of Foreman Fruit Co. in Wenatchee, said company orchards from Sunnyside to Omak have been impacted. On June 6, crews were trimming infected limbs from trees in a Foreman orchard off Pogue Road near Omak.

Meanwhile, hail damaged about 200 acres of Oneonta Starr Ranch Growers Golden Delicious and Honeycrisp apples near Quincy on May 17, Jim Thomas, company co-owner, said.

Robinson said it was not widespread.



Capital Press File  
A solar project featuring honeybees in Oregon's Clackamas County is being appealed by farmland conservationists.

## Beehive solar project draws opposition

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

A farmland conservation group is appealing a 73-acre solar project in Oregon's Clackamas County which won land use approval because beehives will be raised on the property.

1,000 Friends of Oregon, a nonprofit, is challenging the county's conditional use permit for the project near Estacada before the state's Land Use Board of Appeals.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Board of Agriculture is also asking state land use regulators to consider issuing emergency rules in reaction to the project.

Clackamas County approved the permit from Steve Schmitt and Pacific Northwest Solar LLC last month, finding the solar facility will not preclude the property's use as a commercial agricultural enterprise.

The project developer proposes keeping about 100 honeybee colonies at the site while cultivating "bee-friendly forage" around the solar panels and "shade resistant native plants" beneath them.

Under Oregon's land use law, solar power facilities can be no larger than 12 acres without an exception to the statewide goal of preserving farmland.

However, a hearing officer with Clackamas County has ruled the project will take up less than 12 acres since the area under the panels will be used for forage.

"There does not seem to be any dispute that an apiary is a farm use," said Fred Wilson, the county's hearing officer.

The project developer estimated the apiary will generate \$75,000 per year but opponents claimed the actual revenue would be about 80 percent lower.

Despite these differences, the hearing officer was convinced the apiary qualified

as a commercial agricultural enterprise.

"Even if income is less than the projected amount, the proposed apiary seems more likely than not to produce significant amounts of income that would still constitute contributing in a substantial way to the area's existing agricultural economy," he said.

Although the hearing officer found that using the site for renewable energy and a farm use "would seem to be a win-win scenario," his rationale is troubling to the Oregon Farm Bureau.

A similar justification could be used to build a shopping mall on high value farmland if goats were allowed on the property, said Mary Anne Cooper, public policy counsel for the organization.

"As much as that would be a fun shopping mall, it's not a farm use," Cooper testified before the Oregon Board of Agriculture during its June 7 meeting in Hood River, Ore.

The board, which advises the Oregon Department of Agriculture, unanimously decided to send a letter to the Land Conservation and Development Commission to consider emergency rules for the situation.

A broader resolution calling for stronger land use protections for farmland when siting solar projects and other energy facilities was also unanimously approved by the Board of Agriculture.

For example, the resolution "supports a better definition of highly productive farmland" to consider factors other than just soil types, such as irrigation availability or unique climate.

Concern about solar development on farmland has already convinced Yamhill County to prohibit such facilities on top soil classes while Marion County has excluded them from "exclusive farm use" zones, said Jim Johnson, ODA's land use specialist.

## Water shortages expected in much of Oregon

Farmers, ranchers banking on reservoir storage

By GEORGE PLAVERN  
Capital Press

Low winter snowpack combined with a drier-than-usual spring and rapid snowmelt will likely translate into critically low water supplies across parts of Oregon heading into summer, according to the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The NRCS released its June basin report for Oregon, and the outlook is bleak, especially in southern and eastern Oregon. Gov. Kate Brown has already declared a drought emergency in Klamath, Grant, Harney and Lake counties, while the U.S. Drought Monitor shows nearly the entire state in some level of drought, from "abnormally dry" to "severe drought."

Unusually warm weather

in May led to rapid melting of already limited snowpack, said Scott Oviatt, snow survey supervisor and hydrologist for the NRCS.

Of 81 real-time snow monitoring stations, only five still have snow as of June 1.

Snowpack is critical for water management, since it acts as a natural reservoir gradually replenishing streams into spring and summer. However, most of Oregon's snowpack peaked around 70 percent of normal and melted away quickly over the last month.

Snow has almost completely disappeared statewide, except for basins in the far northeast corner of Oregon, which are still clinging to 27 percent of normal levels. Many sites melted out one to two weeks ahead of schedule, and several higher elevation sites had snow melting up to 2 1/2 times faster than usual.

Streams in the drought-stricken Klamath, Harney, Goose Lake and John Day basins are projected to

run just 26-82 percent of normal levels through September. Forecasts improve closer to the Columbia River and west of the Cascades, which received closer to normal snowpack.

The Umatilla, Walla Walla and Grande Ronde rivers should experience near-average stream flows in northeast Oregon.

The Willamette Basin, home to more than 1 million acres of farmland, should see stream flows ranging from 48 to 87 percent of normal, along with the Hood, Sandy and Upper Deschutes basins.

In southwest Oregon, fore-

casters anticipate the Rogue and Umpqua rivers will be slightly lower, at 47 to 81 percent of average.

Reservoirs remain a bright spot in this year's water outlook. Most of the state's major reservoirs are holding 70 to 110 percent volume, with the Umatilla, Walla Walla and Willow basin reservoirs faring best at 95 to 111 percent full.

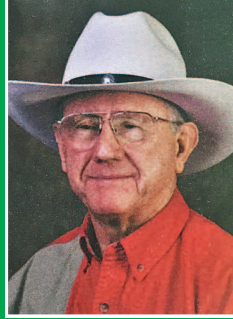
The NRCS is advising irrigators to plan accordingly for water shortages, "especially in southern and southeastern Oregon where the snowpack was the lowest this season."

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**Tires LES SCHWAB Weekly fieldwork report**

|  |  Ore. |  Wash. |  Idaho |  Calif. |
|--|--|---|---|--|
| • Days suitable for fieldwork (As of June 12)                | 6.5  | 6.2   | 6.2   | 7  |
| • Topsoil moisture, surplus                                  | 2%   | 3%  | 21%   | 0  |
| • Topsoil moisture, percent short                            | 54%  | 29%   | 29%   | 70%  |
| • Subsoil moisture, surplus                                  | 0  | 2%  | 16%   | 0  |
| • Subsoil moisture, percent short                            | 53%  | 20%   | 22%   | 65%  |
| • Precipitation probability (6-10 day outlook as of June 12) | 33-50% below/ Normal   | 33-50% below  | 33-40% below/ 33-40% above  | Normal   |

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