

2018 Willamette Valley Ag Expo

Linn County Fair and Expo Center

3700 Knox Butte Rd., Albany.

Tuesday, Nov. 13 (9 a.m.-6 p.m.)

Wednesday, Nov. 14 (10 a.m.-9 p.m.)

Thursday, Nov. 15 (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)

Admission: \$4 (price includes a \$2 discount on the featured lunch)

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Expo managers

The Willamette Valley Ag Association contracts with Ingalls & Associates LLC to provide association management services and event production.

Event Producer

Scott Ingalls

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Association Manager

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Get ready for the best Ag Expo ever

By GEOFF PARKS
For the Capital Press

The 18th edition of the Willamette Valley Ag Expo kicks off on Tuesday, Nov. 13, and runs for three event-filled days at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center in Albany, Ore.

From opening day to its close on Thursday, Nov. 15, the Expo features 250,000 square feet of exhibits, seminars and classes tailored for all who attend. The Expo also presents the popular Dine Around Oregon on Wednesday evening.

The Expo is sponsored by the Willamette Valley Agriculture Association, a nonprofit educational and trade organization whose members are either exhibitors or sponsors of the Expo. Proceeds from the Expo go toward the scholarships awarded to college students majoring in agriculture-related topics.

The hours for this year's Expo are:

- Tuesday, Nov. 13, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Thursday, Nov. 15, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Aside from the massive display of farm equipment and related products and services, the three-day Expo features training classes, seminars and other educational opportunities, said Jill Ingalls, association manager. She and her husband, Scott Ingalls, the Expo's producer, work together each year to put on the growing event.

Jill Ingalls said the Expo has enjoyed a satisfying partnership with the Oregon FFA for the past 18 years.

"The Expo relies on Scio FFA in par-



Willamette Valley Ag Expo

Visitors to the Calapooia Building during the 2017 Willamette Valley Ag Expo.

ticular for cashing, ticket-selling and -taking and other critical volunteer positions," she said. "We also reach out to other nearby schools with FFA programs and ask for help with greeting, Dine Around Oregon and various volunteer tasks. Everyone loves to see all those blue jackets."

FFA groups from all schools in Oregon are invited to attend the Expo free of charge on Ag Youth Day, which this year will be Wednesday, Nov. 14, Ingalls said. "Thanks to several sponsors, \$75 to \$150 transportation grants are offered to every school that requests them."

Applications for transportation grants are available by request to info@wvaExpo.com or by calling (800) 208-2168.

"We like to think we're helping to grow

the next generation of farmers and ranchers and help to keep their interest strong in agriculture," said Carl Laux of Papé, who serves on the Expo's board of directors as president.

The popular Dine Around Oregon event has seen ticket sales increase each year as its reputation for creating a unique Oregon dining experience continues to grow. Dine Around Oregon runs from 5 to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 14. Tickets are available online at www.wvaExpo.com.

Admission to the Expo is \$4 and parking at the Linn County Fair & Expo Center is free. The site is 3700 Knox Butte Road E., Albany. The Expo is open to visitors of all ages, and current FFA and 4-H participants are especially encouraged to attend.



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