



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

A MATTER OF TRUST

Washington Grain Commission CEO Glen Squires stands outside the organization's office in downtown Spokane.

Glen Squires

Age: 61
Title: CEO, Washington Grain Commission
Hometown: Centerville, Utah
Resides: Spokane Valley, Wash.
Hobbies: Spending time with family; outdoor recreation

Family: Married wife Charlotte in 1983; five children, seven grandchildren

Education: Associate's degree in transportation management; Salt Lake Community College; bachelor's degree in agribusiness/business administration with emphasis in food marketing, Utah State University; master's degree in agricultural economics with focus on international marketing, Washington State University



Capital Press graphic

For Washington Grain Commission CEO Glen Squires, it's all about the customers

By MATTHEW WEAVER
 Capital Press

SPOKANE — Buyers from overseas sometimes stop in to Glen Squires' office to talk about the progress of the crop that's critical to their business: wheat.

Are there any issues coming up? How is the crop developing? Any new varieties?

Those kinds of questions often lead to others, says Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission in Spokane.

Squires will ask in return: What are consumers thinking about? Is your company trying to use wheat in new products?

"If you can have a sit-down conversation ... and they know you're going to work on your end and you can expect they'll work on their end, then things get solved for the benefit of everyone who's involved," he said.

Squires has a knack for connecting with people. He's able to humanize complicated issues during conversations with cus-

tomers, said Ritzville, Wash., wheat farmer Mike Miller, a commission member and former chairman of U.S. Wheat Associates.

Squires deserves the reputation he's earned, nationally and internationally, for honesty and integrity, Miller said.

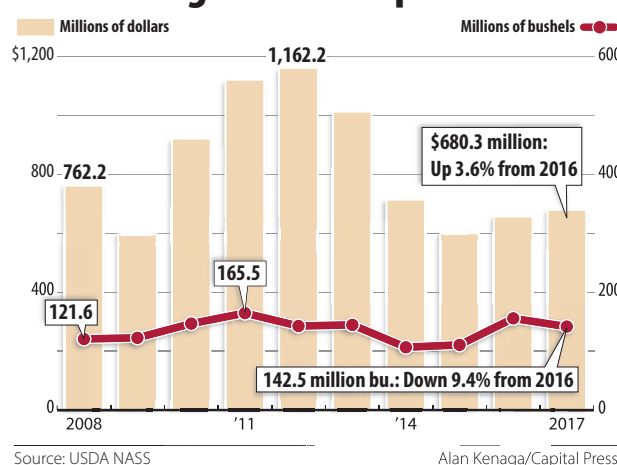
"I can honestly tell you, Glen does not make any kind of decision haphazardly, especially when it comes to how it can benefit or impact Washington state farmers," Miller said.

For Washington farmers, who this year grew nearly 2.2 million acres of wheat worth \$700 million, trade is critical. About 90 percent of the crop is sold overseas to customers in Japan, the Philippines, South Korea, Indonesia, China, Thailand, Taiwan and Yemen.

Many of those trade relationships have been developed over decades.

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Washington wheat production



Lost Valley Farm heading to auction

Buyer submits \$66 million offer

By GEORGE PLAVEN
 Capital Press

BOARDMAN, Ore. — What once aspired to be Oregon's second-largest dairy with up to 30,000 cows, the failed Lost Valley Farm will soon be up for auction.

Lost Valley owner Greg te Velde filed for bankruptcy in April, and the court later appointed a trustee to run



E.J. Harris/EO Media Group File

The Lost Valley Farm outside Boardman, Ore., will soon be up for auction.

the operation in September after finding te Velde continued his longstanding pattern of gambling and illegal drug use. The trustee, Randy

Sugarman, decided to close and sell the dairy by early 2019.

An auction is scheduled for Jan. 31, and at least one

prospective buyer has submitted a bid to purchase Lost Valley's assets — including land, water rights, equipment and property — for

\$66.9 million.

The company, identified as Canyon Farm LLC, is incorporated in Delaware but lists its address as a post office box in Pasco, Wash. Lost Valley and Canyon Farm filed an Asset Purchase Agreement with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Fresno, Calif., but it could be outbid at auction.

Liz Fuller, a spokeswoman for Lost Valley, said Canyon Farm is "experienced and respected, and meets stringent criteria set

forth in the document," but declined to provide more information about the bidder. An email sent to the company was not immediately returned, and no phone number was listed in the purchase agreement.

Lost Valley's cattle herd and Confined Animal Feeding Operation, or CAFO, permit are not included in the purchase agreement. Fuller said the dairy has already auctioned off about

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Oregon farm regulators won't pursue new canola authority

Oregon Department of Agriculture to begin rule-making process for controversial crop

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
 Capital Press

SALEM, Ore. — The Oregon Department of Agriculture will not seek additional authority to regulate canola during next year's legislative session.

Last month, the ODA submitted a report to the Legislature outlining several alternatives for regulating canola in the Willamette Valley.

Two of those options would have required lawmakers to vest ODA



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File

Canola seed is emptied from a harvester into a truck in Oregon's Willamette Valley. The Oregon Department of Agriculture will not seek additional authority to regulate the controversial crop during the 2019 legislative session.

with more authority, including limiting canola acreage and developing a public "pinning" map system to

avoid cross-pollination with related crops.

During a Dec. 19 meeting in

Salem, Ore., however, the agency's leaders said they had not submitted such proposals to the Legislature.

"We really don't want to have this discussion at the Capitol," said Lisa Hanson, ODA's deputy director.

Instead, the agency will pursue rules under ODA's existing powers, which will likely include an "exclusion zone" where canola will be more tightly regulated.

"We're doing this to bring certainty to all growers on all sides in the valley," said Alexis Taylor, ODA's director.

The new rules would be intended to ensure canola regulation doesn't "fall off a cliff" when the existing Legislature-mandated 500-acre cap on canola production expires in July 2019, said Taylor.

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