

New NW Ag Show debuts at state fairgrounds

By MITCH LIES
For the Capital Press

On Jan. 16-18 at the Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center in Salem, the 2019 edition of the Northwest Ag Show will feature Oregon's major farm-equipment retailers and a whole slate of new activities. In addition it will serve as the signature event and launch of the first-ever Salem Ag Week, a week-long celebration of agriculture in the heart of the Willamette Valley.

It also is the first time in more than 45 years that the show is being held in Salem — and a first for Capital Press and its parent company, the EO Media Group. The newspaper is producing this year's show.

At a glance

What: The Northwest Ag Show

Where: Oregon State Fairgrounds and Expo Center, 2330 17th St. NE, Salem, Ore.

When: Wednesday, Jan. 16, through Friday, Jan. 18

Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Thursday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday

Admission: \$3, \$1 for seniors. Children under 12 are free. On Friday, the admission is free for all attendees.

Website: www.northwestagshow.com

"This has been a learning experience for us," Joe Beach, editor and publisher of the Capital Press, said. "The people at the (Oregon State) Fair have been an immense help in setting up this first show."

In addition to the Ag Show, Salem Ag Week

activities include:

- Oregon Aglink's annual meeting, which will be Jan. 17 in the fairgrounds' Cascade Hall.

- Oregon Agriculture in the Classroom's first ever Agricultural Career Expo, which will be Jan. 18, also in Cascade Hall.

- The Salem Area Chamber of Commerce's SAIF Agri-Business Banquet, which will be Jan. 18 at the Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. S.E.

- The Oregon Dairy Princess-Ambassador program's coronation on Jan. 19. It will also be at the Salem Convention Center.

More than 110 vendors, ranging from large-scale farm-equipment dealers to insurance and financial companies, vineyard supply companies and others will showcase their goods and services in two halls, the Jackman-Long Building and adjacent Columbia Hall, and on the grounds at the Fair and Exposition Center.

Seminars on topics such

as farm financing, estate planning, worker safety, employment law, water rights and drone technology will take place in Cascade Hall on Jan. 16-17.

Participating organizations said they were excited to be part of the launch of Salem Ag Week and to partner with the Northwest Ag Show.

"We are looking forward to where our members are able to come to the annual meeting and also enjoy everything the Northwest Ag Show has to offer," said Mallory Phelan, executive director of Oregon Aglink, which moved its annual meeting from Woodburn to Salem to be part of the proceedings.

Capital Press moved the

show from Portland, where it was held from the early 1970s through 2016, primarily because of traffic issues, a decision that has elicited widespread support from vendors and others associated with the show.

"We have received really good response," said Michael Keith, marketing manager for the EO Media Group and Northwest Ag Show director. "I think people are excited that we are having it in Salem, just because it is easier to get into and out of the venue."

Also, Keith said, with Marion County being the No. 1 agricultural county in Oregon, "It just makes sense to have the show here in Salem."



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