

Oregon State University celebrates opening of mass timber research lab

Facility will be home to TallWood Design Institute

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

CORVALLIS, Ore. — A new facility dedicated to researching and testing mass timber in commercial buildings is now open at Oregon State University.

OSU celebrated the grand opening of the A.A. “Red” Emmerson Advanced Wood Products Laboratory on Oct. 10 at the main campus in Corvallis. The 17,500-square-foot lab is part of the College of Forestry’s new Oregon Forest Science Complex, which broke ground in 2016.

Mass timber refers to products such as cross-laminated timber, or CLT, and glue-laminated beams used in the construction of buildings, as opposed to steel or concrete.

While Europe has pioneered mass timber since the early 1990s, Oregon became just the first state last year to adopt building codes that allow for wood-framed buildings up to 18 stories tall.

That is due in part to research by the TallWood Design Institute, a partnership between OSU’s College of



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Forestry and College of Engineering, and the University of Oregon’s College of Design.

The Advanced Wood Products Lab will house the TallWood Design Institute, with 20 to 30 professors studying fire performance, building physics and environmental impact of new mass timber products.

Iain Macdonald, director of the TallWood Design Institute, said the program has close links with Oregon’s manufacturing community, including both of the state’s mass timber producers — D.R. Johnson Lumber in Riddle, Ore., and Freres Lumber in Lyons.

“We have also been able to conduct structural, fire, acous-

tic and durability testing for many of the mass timber building projects that have taken shape around Oregon and beyond,” Macdonald said.

The grand opening featured live demonstrations of state-of-the-art manufacturing equipment, such as a milling robot used to carve mass timber beams and panels.

Anthony Davis, interim dean of the OSU College of Forestry, said wood construction “has to be a cornerstone in mounting an aggressive front in challenging our sustainability and climate crises.”

Figures provided by the Oregon Forest Resources Institute show it produces 26% less



OSU
The Advanced Wood Products Laboratory at Oregon State University will house the TallWood Design Institute, a research collaborative for mass timber in tall commercial buildings. It includes state-of-the-art equipment such as a KUKA milling robot.

greenhouse gases to make CLT compared to steel, and 50% less than making concrete.

“Oregon is blessed with having some of the most productive and diverse forests in the world,” Davis said. “Because of this we are better positioned than anyone else to serve as a bridge between our natural resources and meeting demands of urban growth and renewal, while also continuing

to conserve habitat and provide recreational access.”

The lab is named after A.A. “Red” Emmerson, who founded Sierra Pacific Industries in 1949. His son, George Emmerson, graduated from OSU in 1978 and is now the company president. His daughter, Carolyn Emmerson Dietz, is also president of the Sierra Pacific Foundation and graduated from OSU in 1982.

Sierra Pacific Industries is the second-largest lumber producer in the U.S., and donated \$6 million toward construction of the Oregon Forest Science Complex.

The \$79.5 million complex, funded through a mix of public and private money, will also include the new 95,000-square-foot Peavy Hall, which is scheduled to open in spring 2020.

According to OSU, enrollment in the College of Forestry has steadily increased over the last decade, with the number of applications and admitted students up nearly 20% in 2018.

“These new facilities represent a critical step in the pathway toward using renewable materials in new ways,” Davis said. “Our mission is to use this space as a model of how we can pair Oregon’s intellectual capacity with our natural resources and capitalize on our spirit of innovation.”

Apples still king of Washington agriculture

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — Agricultural production in Washington dropped 2% to \$9.67 billion in 2018 with apples as the top value commodity for the 14th year in a row, according to the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Apples represented 23% of the state’s total agricultural value at \$2.19 billion, down 10% from \$2.43 billion in 2017. The record high was \$2.48 billion in 2012.

Trade issues with Mexico, India and China were largely responsible for the decline in apples, said Desmond O’Rourke, world apple analyst and retired Washington State University agricultural economist.

“The 2% overall decline is a normal swing and rather insignificant given the global market nature of many of these

commodities. It’s really a pretty strong performance particularly on the crop side given all the tariffs and trade volatility,” O’Rourke said.

Milk remained in second place with a value of \$1.13 billion in 2018, down 5% from 2017. Wheat stayed in third at \$845 million, up 22% from the previous year.

“Wheat was up from a long-term depressed situation. Washington wheat value of production between 2011 and 2013 averaged \$1.1 billion annually. The \$845 million is a bounce back up from a lot of bad years,” O’Rourke said.

Potatoes, valued at \$788 million, were the fourth highest and up 15% from the previous year. Cattle and calves rounded out the top five with a value of \$652 million, down 3%.

These five commodities had a combined value of \$5.60 billion, or 58% of the 2018 value for all commodities, excluding government payments. In

2017, the same five commodities had a combined value of \$5.67 billion.

Hay ranked sixth at \$519 million, up 0.7%. Hops were seventh at \$427 million, down 6.8%. Cherries were eighth at \$426 million, down 10.1%. Grapes hit a record high of \$361 million, up 13%, staying in ninth place.

Eggs replaced pears in 10th place at \$241 million, up 70%. Brian Bookey, president of National Food, Everett, one of the state’s largest egg producers questions the accuracy of that increase. NASS stood by the data, saying the 70% increase in value was driven by price, not supply. Bookey questioned that.

Pears dropped to \$211 million, down 15%.

Notable commodities outside the top 10 that showed significant increases included onions at \$178 million, up 10%, and blueberries at \$139 million, up 21%.

Barley increased 55% to \$21.5 million. Canola increased 23% to \$20.3 million. They are up as wheat farmers plant them as alternative crops, O’Rourke said.

Five of the top 10 commodities declined in value from the previous year, including apples, cattle and calves, hops, sweet cherries and pears.

Other notable commodities that declined in value in 2018 were raspberries at \$35.9 million, down 38%, and green peas, down 21% to \$22.8 million.

Washington was the top nationwide producer in apples, cherries, pears, hops, wrinkled seed peas, spearmint oil and asparagus.

Oregon was the top producer of blueberries. Idaho was first in potatoes, peppermint oil and barley.

California was No. 1 in apricots, grapes, peaches, dry onions, raspberries, strawberries, milk and milk cows.

Chickpea crop quality in question because of high moisture

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Pacific Northwest chickpea farmers and processors will have to dry about a third of their crop this year because of late-season rains.

“It seems like every three

days it would rain again, and it never dried out,” said Todd Scholz, vice president of research and member services for the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council in Moscow, Idaho.

Nearly 60,000 acres

in Idaho and Washington remained unharvested at the beginning of October, Scholz said. The crop was planted late, he said.

Moisture levels were up to 18%. Processors accept a maximum of 13% moisture.

“That put us in a quandary,” Scholz said. “The producers had a crop that was on the ground they couldn’t cut, and the processors wouldn’t accept it.”

Montana and North Dakota chickpea growers also faced significant moisture — “about 10 times as much as us,” Scholz said, adding that there was sprouting in pods. He doesn’t expect a lot of sprout in Idaho and Washington.

He estimates more than 10% of the Pacific Northwest



Submitted photo
Chickpeas are shown blooming in a field near Kendrick, Idaho. About a third of the Pacific Northwest crop will have to be dried because of late-season rains.

crop was damaged. Processors brought in dryers and are accepting crop at higher moisture levels to take it through the drying process.

“The only hold-up now is there’s only a limited number of dryers,” Scholz said. “It looks better now than it did maybe two weeks ago.”

Because of the high moisture, the quality of the crop is still in question, Scholz said.

Chickpeas from wetter regions may have greater risk of quality problems, Scholz said. Processors have reported the possibility of dirt damage, discoloration and mold.

“It appears if we can get the crop dry, it’s going to be acceptable quality,” Scholz said.

Chickpeas are presently priced at 15 to 16 cents per pound.

“Every cost you add to the cost of production makes that 15 cents even shorter,” Scholz said.

California pesticide ban will hit alfalfa, scientists say

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

Integrated pest management of alfalfa in California will be “profoundly” impacted by the loss of the pesticide chlorpyrifos next year, research scientists say.

The California Environmental Protection Agency announced Oct. 8 that virtually all use of the pesticide chlorpyrifos will end next year following an agreement between the Department of Pesticide Regulation and pesticide manufacturers.

Sale of chlorpyrifos products in California will end Feb. 6, 2020, and growers will no longer be allowed to possess or use them after Dec. 31.

Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom lauded the agreement as “a big win for children, workers and public health.”

The department was moving toward a ban and had declared the pesticide a toxic air contaminant. Usage dropped more than 50%, from 2 million pounds in 2005 to just over 900,000 pounds in 2017, CalEPA said. It is used to control pests in alfalfa, almonds, citrus, cotton, grapes and walnuts.

“This is a major issue for alfalfa since it is one of the most popular wide-spectrum insecticides for management of key alfalfa pests,” University of California-Davis forage expert Daniel Putnam and entomologists Rachel Freeman Long and Ian Grettenberger wrote in a UC-Davis Cooperative Extension newsletter, the Oct. 11.

They cited the alfalfa weevil, which chews on foliage and an aphid complex that suck juices from the plant.

While use of chlorpyrifos has declined, it was still used on 153,000 acres of alfalfa in California in 2017 and the few alternative pesticides are not as effective, the scientists wrote.

UC-Davis is working to find non-pesticide ways to manage weevil and aphid.

The 153,000 alfalfa acres where chlorpyrifos is used is 27% of California’s alfalfa acreage, said Jon Paul Driver, a Northwest Farm Credit Services hay analyst in Spokane.

“California remains the largest dairy state and largest alfalfa exporting state,” Driver said.

But it is producing less than half the alfalfa it did 10 years ago, he said. Average yield was 6 tons per acre in 2019, the lowest since 1979, he said.

“A change in integrated pest management will further weigh on total production,” Driver said.

Consequently, production may expand outside California, he said.

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The Soil and Water Conservation Commission (SWCC) will hold its regular quarterly meeting from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 5, 2019, at Eagle Crest Resort Lodge Conference Center, 1522 Cline Falls Road, Redmond, OR 97756. The agenda covers SWCC reports, advisor reports, Soil and Water Conservation District programs and funding, Agriculture Water Quality Management Program updates, and other items.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact Sandi Hiatt at (503) 986-4704, at least 72 hours prior to the meeting.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces a meeting of the Washington State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) on Thursday, October 24, 2019 from 9:30am to 3:00p. This meeting will be held by teleconference. For more information, contact Nick Vira at 360-704-7758.

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 10/23/2019. The sale will be held at 10:00am by
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VIN= 5J6RE4H39BL087536
Amount due on lien \$1,595.00
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