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Dairy/Livestock

Funding boost fuels CAFE research dairy

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

The University of Idaho will move ahead with the design and construction phase of the country’s largest research dairy following a \$1 million donation by the J.R. Simplot Co.

That donation brought the university’s commitment to the project to \$10 million, matching the \$10 million state appropriation – which the state has now released to the university.

The research dairy is the foundation of the Center for Agriculture, Food and the Environment, a \$45 million project that’s been more than a dozen years in the making.

“The university is grateful to the Simplot Company for helping us release this funding and to the state of Idaho for its commitment and support of agriculture and out dairy research,” Scott Green, University of Idaho president, said, in a press release.

Simplot supports the project given its focus to improve sustainability of agriculture across southern Idaho, Scott Simplot, chairman of the company’s board of directors, said.

Michael Parrella, dean of the university’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, said CALS is extremely pleased to reach this milestone.

“Our partnership with the dairy industry and a wide range of other groups to plan and fund this project under-



Capital Press file photo

Cows feed at a dairy near Kuna, Idaho, in this file photo. The University of Idaho will move ahead with the country’s largest research dairy following a \$1 million donation by the J.R. Simplot Co.

lines its importance to Idaho agriculture,” he said.

The CAFE project was stalled for many years by a recession but was reinvigorated in 2017 with a plan to acquire the \$45 million needed from the university, industry and the state.

Earlier this year, the university and Idaho Dairy-men’s Association partnered to purchase land near Rupert to build the research dairy. The release of appropriated state money will boost the project further.

“It’s definitely gaining momentum at a rapid pace, and it’s exciting to see what’s been a conversation for over 12 years finally come to fruition,” Rick Naerebout,

Idaho Dairymen’s Association CEO, told Capital Press.

IDA is still working with the university to raise funding to complete the project, he said.

The university plans to seek approval from the Idaho State Board of Education in December to begin design work on the research dairy. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2021, with completion in 2023.

Research has already begun on the dairy site to establish an environmental baseline for future research.

In addition to the research dairy, the project includes the CAFE Discovery Complex, an education and outreach facility that will

include a public visitor center. The university purchased land for the complex in June.

The project also includes a food-processing pilot plant for education and research in partnership with the College of Southern Idaho.

IDA’s primary focus is on the research dairy, Naerebout said.

“For us, the environmental research component of the project has always been our focus,” he said.

IDA is thankful for the support of the university and Dean Parrella, he said.

“It’s exciting to see our land grant university have that much support for animal agriculture,” he said.

Cheese prices dip

By LEE MIELKE
For the Capital Press

Just as roller coasters climb they also come down and the first week of November saw that happen in cheese. The Cheddar blocks closed Nov. 8 at \$2.0150 per pound, down 14 cents on the week but still 63.5 cents above a year ago.

The barrels soared to \$2.39 per pound last Wednesday, highest since Sept. 25, 2014 and a dime shy of the record set Sept. 22 of that year, but they fell to a Friday close at \$2.33, a half-cent higher on the week, \$1.0250 above a year ago, and an inverted 31.5 cents above the blocks.

Traders left the blocks unchanged on Veterans Day, but took them down 7.5 cents Tuesday, to \$1.94, lowest since Sept. 26 and 29.75 cents below their Sept. 16 peak for the year.

The barrels were also unchanged Monday but lost 1.5 cents Tuesday, slipping to \$2.3150, an inverted record 37.5 cents above the blocks.

“Fresh spot selling sparked a futures market pummeling,” explained FC Stone’s Dave Kurzawski in his Nov. 8 Early Morning Update, and he says that “Fundamentally \$1.90-\$2.00 cheese seems to make more sense than \$2.40, but we’ve had some special circumstances recently that have further tightened the fresh cheese market by upwards of 30 million pounds.” He adds

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that “We need to figure out if all supply/demand imbalances are resolved or if this is a rather normal correction in a bull market. We think the latter.”

Cheese markets were the hot topic not only in cheese circles but in agricultural commodity circles nationwide last week, according to Dairy Market News, as prices have not been this bullish since third quarter 2014.

For context, \$2.49 was a market high in late September of that same year. Notably, by New Year’s Eve, 2014 barrel prices were roughly \$1 below their autumn acme. Barrel producers continue to report being behind on orders but milk production reports continue to show heavier component levels and spot milk prices saw a drop-off last week: \$1.50 under Class to \$1 over by midweek.

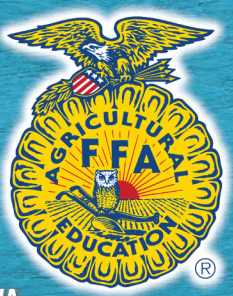
Consumer cheese demand is solid in the west but buyers are hesitant to take extra loads at current prices. Seasonal sales were flowing steadily but manufacturers suggest the run up in CME prices “squelched additional demand.” Cheese production is steady and strong and ample milk is available, says DMN. Inventory is adequate for block and aged cheese but tighter for fresh barrels.



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Rogue River FFA members compete at national level

For the first time ever, the Rogue River FFA chapter has multiple teams competing at the national level. This past May, the chapter’s Soils Evaluation CDE Team competed at the 2019 National Land Judging Contest in Oklahoma City, Okla.

We also had members traveling to Indianapolis, Ind., for the 92nd Annual National FFA Convention and Exposition. Members traveling competed in Extemporaneous Public Speaking, Floriculture and the Agriscience Fair.

Oregon’s Extemporaneous Public Speaker is Gabriel Tambellini. He is a senior at Rogue River Junior Senior High School and the Rogue River FFA chapter president. Gabe has worked tirelessly throughout the summer and the start of school to prepare for his event. He takes his responsibility to represent the state of Oregon very seriously and is excited for the opportunity to share all the agriculture industry topics he’s been learning about. He enjoys chatting with individuals about research and development in the industry and trade agreement impacts.

Oregon’s Floriculture Team is made of up Savanna Stillwagner (junior), Anna Howard (sophomore), Cassidy Hager (junior), Diana Weilbacher (junior) and Wyatt Stillwagner (freshman). This group of five spends their free time studying plant identification, floral designs and industry trends. The team has also started making arrangements for staff and individuals in our community as a way to not only practice but to give back to a community that is so graciously supporting them!

One of Oregon’s Agriscience Fair exhibitors is Savanna Stillwagner. She is a junior at Rogue River Junior Senior High School and a member of the Rogue River officer team. She worked throughout her sophomore year to develop her project about Xenotransplantation. She conducted a social experiment about how people feel about utilizing animals for transplants in humans. She was excited to share her findings with those attending the National FFA Convention.

Rogue River FFA’s success is something that we are very proud of. The students here are working harder than ever and feel honored to represent their state association this coming week and as for their advisors, Nicole Bambino and Sam Herringshaw, they couldn’t be more proud!



Floriculture team: Front, from left, are Anna Howard and Cassidy Hager. Back row, from left, are Wyatt Stillwagner, Savanna Stillwagner and Diana Weilbacher.



Oregon’s Extemporaneous Public Speaker is Gabriel Tambellini, a senior at Rogue River Junior Senior High School and the FFA chapter president.



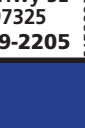
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