Dairy producer input leads to quota phase-out proposal

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

California's dairy producers have been embroiled in a nearly two-year debate over the state's quota system, which pays a premium on milk to quota owners.

The program assesses all grade A milk producers to pay that premium, rankling those who don't own quota or don't own enough to reap a benefit. They see the program as throwback to a 50-year-old system that outlived its purpose long ago.

On the other side of the coin, quota is a valuable asset — something producers have invested in to augment their milk check, save for retirement or remain competitive where expansion isn't possible.

"It's a very emotional issue," Dino Giacomazzi, one of the organizers of United Dairy Families of California, said.

The issue has led to conflict, rumors and lies, and it's a double moral dilemma as dairy producers on both sides of the issue seek fairness, he said.

UDFC was formed by a group of dairy producers to provide a platform for sharing ideas on quota and the Quota Implementation Plan, as a means to move forward.

"We believe that it's time to put this behind us … and come together as an industry so we can be strong in the face of all our other adversaries," he said.

Those other challenges include a host of regulatory and labor issues and an inhospitable political and social climate.

To that end, UDFC organized producer meetings and — with other industry groups — hired two economists to analyze the situation, evaluate producer feedback and come up with viable proposals.

Those economists — Marin Bozic and Matt Gould — have narrowed the options to one final proposal.

It calls for a QIP sunset with a termination date of March 2025. Regional quota adjusters would be equalized to a premium of $1.43 per hundredweight of milk. Assessments would be 34 cents per hundredweight, resulting in a cumulative payment of $300 per pound of quota (non-fat solids) distributed over 60 months.

The proposal is the result of producer surveys, which were fair, balanced and representative of the industry, Giacomazzi said.

"We have a high degree of confidence that the results of the surveys reflect the industry's will," he said.

The consensus plan is what dairy producers suggested would be fair, not something that's necessarily in everyone's best interest, he said.

The Milk Producers Council has members on both sides of the issue and is neutral on quota, Geoff Vandenhuevel, MPC director of regulatory and economic affairs, said.

What's important here is that the economists gathering information and analyzing the options are no longer neutral in their recommendation, he said.

"They came to the conclusion this is the middle ground. As middle ground, its challenge is it disappoints everyone. That's the definition of compromise — no one gets everything they want," he said.

What the industry is now going to find out is whether producers think it's the middle ground and whether they'll support it, he said.

The proposal and related documents are available at: https://dairyfamilies.org .

Pear conditioning helps sales, experts say

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

HOOD RIVER, Ore. — By delivering ripe and ready-to-eat pears to supermarket shelves, growers can boost sales and drive repeat purchases amid a crowded and competitive produce department, industry experts say.

Kevin Moffitt, president and CEO of Pear Bureau Northwest, said surveys show 60% of consumers believe pears should be ripe immediately when bought.

"We're in a want-it-now society," Moffitt told growers Feb. 4 at the Oregon State University Extension winter horticulture meeting in Hood River, Ore. "When we're at the store and grapes are ready to eat right then, and apples are ready to eat right then … they're ready to go. With our pears, we just don't quite have that yet."

One way to get there, Moffitt said, is through "conditioned" fruit — that is, pears that have been brought to their "just starting to ripen" state before they are shipped to retailers.

Conditioning is a process in which chilled pears are brought into a ripening room and warmed to room temperature while being treated with ethylene, a natural hormone that regulates the ripening of plants. Pears are then cooled to between 32 and 34 degrees to stay firm through storage.

Moffitt, who began his career as a ripening consultant for Dole Food Co., described conditioning as a way to unlock pears' flavor and improve consistency.

"Consumers are buying with their eyes, but they're coming back for the flavor," Moffitt said. "One proven way to get that flavor is to condition pears."

To illustrate his point, growers were invited to compare conditioned green d'Anjou pears and those that weren't. The difference in taste was notable. The non-conditioned pears were tougher and blander in taste, while the conditioned pears were soft, juicy and highly flavorful.

That is what consumers want as soon as they bring pears home, Moffitt said. Research from the Pear Bureau has determined that half of consumers plan to eat pears within two days of purchase, and 71% plan to eat them within three days of purchase.

Ag, timber, rural issues focus of new caucus in Idaho Legislature

By BRAD CARLSON
Capital Press

Farm, Ranch and Timber Issues Caucus

Founding members of the Idaho Legislature's new Farm, Ranch and Timber Issues Caucus, from left: Rep. Sally Toone, D-Gooding; Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson; Rep. Caroline Nilsson Troy, R-Genesee; and Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking, D-Boise.

A new caucus in the Idaho Legislature aims to keep rural issues prominent in policy discussions as the state's population grows and urbanizes.

The Farm, Ranch and Timber Issues Caucus held its first meeting Feb. 3 at the state Capitol in Boise. Founding members are Rep. Caroline Nilsson Troy, R-Genesee; Rep. Sally Toone, D-Gooding; Sen. Bert Brackett, R-Rogerson; and Sen. Janie Ward-Engelking, D-Boise.

Agriculture and timber remain key contributors to the economy of Idaho, though the sectors and the communities they benefit face challenges from population growth and urbanization. Formation of the new caucus comes roughly two years ahead of population-based re-drawing of legislative districts.

"Farm Bureau thinks it's a great idea," Sean Ellis, an Idaho Farm Bureau Federation spokesman, told Capital Press. "As rural Idaho loses more clout in the legislature because of the ongoing population shift to the Treasure Valley, having this caucus that focuses on farm and natural resource issues is going to be critically important."

An Eastern Idaho legislator agrees.

"I don't think it could hurt," said Sen. Mark Harris, R-Soda Springs, a rancher who serves on the Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee and is a Farm Bureau member. "My concern is, and has been for quite a while, that as Idaho grows, rural Idaho is going to lose legislative seats."

He said the prospect of losing rural seats is a concern as the U.S. Census Bureau counts the state's residents this year, the Idaho Citizen Commission for Reapportionment works in 2021, and any resulting legislative redistricting affects the 2022 election cycle.

Idaho has 35 legislative districts, each with a senator and two House members. Harris expects rural Idaho to lose two to three districts — six to nine legislators — to urban areas in the next two years given current growth trends.

Sen. Mark Harris

"Those districts are apportioned on population, so these urban areas that are growing faster than rural areas will end up having more legislative districts than rural Idaho will," he said.

"Idaho is an ag state," Harris said. He said agriculture produces about 20% of Gross State Product and "is extremely important to us. That is my concern, that rural Idaho is losing legislators to the more urban areas."

The new caucus, in a white paper circulated to members of the ag and timber communities, said it plans to address "issues and concerns of the agricultural industry and those citizens, communities and counties who rely on farmers, ranchers, loggers and affiliated industries."

Loss of residents and jobs, aging populations, crumbling infrastructure, a lack of Internet connectivity and bandwidth, and inadequate health services are among challenges rural communities face, the paper said. It identified several industry, rural and community planning associations as potential partners.

"The challenges facing our farmers, ranchers and loggers keep getting more complicated, so this is the perfect time for all of us to come together," Troy said in a news release from the caucus.

Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press

Left to right, Matthew Gillespie, Ryan Flaherty and Greg Thorsgard of the Hazelnut Growers of Oregon cooperative show off packages of the company's Oregon Orchard retail products.

Hazelnut cooperative targets consumer market

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

During a recent road trip, Greg Thorsgard noticed a scarcity of hazelnut products on the shelves of grocery stores he visited.

To Thorsgard, the deficiency emphasized the open playing field available for the Hazelnut Growers of Oregon cooperative, of which he's the chief operating officer.

The cooperative has recently rolled out several new consumer-oriented items made from hazelnuts and plans to continue expanding the value-added product line to reduce the industry's dependence on exports.

"We're not facing a tide of trying to displace other hazelnuts in the market," Thorsgard said.

Four flavors of chocolate-covered hazelnuts are the newest products on offer under HGO's Oregon Orchard brand, following on the heels of five seasoned snack items and four types of hazelnut baking ingredients released last year.

Oregon's hazelnut crop has largely been sold in bulk to domestic manufacturers and to exporters who predominantly focus on the Chinese market, Thorsgard said.

After merging with the Wilco cooperative, HGO opened a new facility in Donald, Ore., in 2018 that includes food-grade processing and pasteurization equipment in addition to the machinery needed for bulk packing.

The goal is to widen the value-added sales channel for hazelnuts, which generates more net income for the cooperative's farmers and improves the entire industry's visibility, he said.

"It will give the whole valley a boost to take nuts away from exports and place them here domestically," Thorsgard said. "We're trying to break that paradigm."

Sangamon County landowner, Joe Morgan, celebrates landmark birthday.

Happy Birthday!!!

Love from Nitch, Russ and Natasha, and your niece Sarah

S170179-1

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

GABRIELLE V. BLAKESLEE,
Plaintiff,
v.
STEVE NAMWOO KIM, BP WEST COAST PRODUCTS, LLC, a Delaware Corporation doing business in the State of Oregon, and ARCO #5882 DBA Salem Best Retail, LLC,
Defendant.

Case No. 19CV53894

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

TO DEFENDANT: STEVE NAMWOO KIM

In the name of the State of Oregon, you are hereby required to appear and answer the complaint filed against you in the above-entitled Court and cause on or before the expiration of 30 days from the date of the first publication of this summons. The date of the first publication in this matter is February 7, 2020. If you fail to timely appear and answer, Plaintiff will apply to the above-entitled court for the relief prayed for in its complaint. SUMMARY STATEMENT FOR RELIEF: This is an action for personal injuries, whereby Plaintiff is seeking judgment against Defendant Steve Namwoo Kim, BP West Coast Products, LLC, a Delaware Corporation doing business in the State of Oregon, and

Arco #5882 DBA Salem Best Retail, LLC for economic damages in the amount of $10,000.00, plus Plaintiff's reasonable attorney fees and costs incurred, and for such other relief as the court deems just and equitable.

NOTICE TO DEFENDANTS: READ THESE PAPERS CAREFULLY!

A lawsuit has been started against you in the above-entitled court by Gabrielle V. Blakeslee, plaintiff. Plaintiff's claims are stated in the written complaint, a copy of which was filed with the above-entitled Court.

You must "appear" in this case or the other side will win automatically. To "appear" you must file with the court a legal document called a "motion" or "answer". The "motion" or "answer" (or "reply") must be given to the court clerk or administrator within 30 days of the date of first publication specified herein along with the required filing fee. It must be in proper form and have proof of service on the plaintiff's attorney, or if the plaintiff does not have an attorney, proof of service on the plaintiff.

If you have any questions, you should see an attorney immediately. Attorney Christopher Drotzmann was retained by the insurance carrier on your behalf. You can contact your attorney Christopher Drotzmann at Davis Rothwell Earle & Xochihua, 200 SW Market Street, Ste. 1800, Portland, Oregon 97201. Christopher Drotzmann's phone number is 503.222.4422. If you need help in finding a different attorney, you may contact the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service online at www.oregonstatebar.org or by calling (503) 684-3763 (in the Portland metropolitan area) or toll-free elsewhere in Oregon at (800) 452-7636.

This summons is issued pursuant to ORCP 7.

DUNN & ROY, PC
Alex C. Dunn, OSB #992533
Of Attorneys for Plaintiff
1515 State Street Salem, Oregon 97301
T: 503.364.8488 • F: 503.588.3495

S170051-1

LEGAL

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON
FOR THE COUNTY OF MARION

VICTOR L. BLAKESLEE,
Plaintiff,
v.
STEVE NAMWOO KIM, BP WEST COAST PRODUCTS, LLC, a Delaware Corporation doing business in the State of Oregon, and ARCO #5882 DBA Salem Best Retail, LLC,
Defendant.

Case No. 19CV53917

SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

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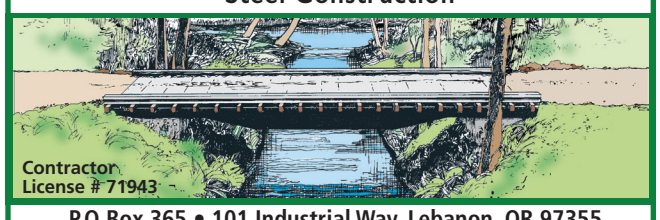

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