

# USDA pays \$2.9 billion in aid to farmers, mostly in Midwest

By SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN  
Capital Press

In the three weeks since USDA opened applications for its \$16 billion farm aid program, the department has disbursed \$2.9 billion in direct payments to more than 220,000 farmers nationwide whose businesses were disrupted by COVID-19.

As of June 15, USDA's weekly report shows the agency has approved \$129 million in payments to California producers, \$52 million to Idaho producers, \$27 million to Washington producers and \$23 million to Oregon producers.

The program, known as the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, or CFP, is handled by the USDA's Farm Service Agency offices nationwide.

"We're very appreciative for aid to farmers through this tough time," said Shelby Myers, economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation.



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

**Dairy cows in Cloverdale, Ore. Farmers across the nation have received \$2.9 billion so far in direct federal aid for COVID-19, but many farms are still in need of help.**

By far, the biggest chunk of aid is flowing to the Midwest. Outpacing their counterparts in every other state, Iowa farmers have received around \$314 million, followed by Nebraska producers at \$207 million, and Illinois, Kansas and Minnesota each with more than \$150 million.

Agricultural experts say Midwest farms are likely receiving more aid for a few reasons.

First, measured by population, many Midwest states have more farms. According to the 2017 Census of Agriculture, for example, Oregon has around 37,000 farms, while Iowa has more than 87,000 farms.

This difference in the number of operations translated into more applicants from Midwest states. California and Idaho had a little over 2,000 applicants each; Oregon and Washington had

around 1,000 each.

In contrast, more than 30,300 Iowa producers have applied.

Agricultural finance experts say fewer applications from Western farmers may also have to do with less USDA infrastructure in the region. Washington state, for example, has 25 Farm Service Agency offices where farmers can apply for aid, while Iowa has more than 40.

A third reason is that many West Coast crops, such as apples, several types of wheat, nursery stock and numerous specialty crops were excluded from the original aid package, so many Western farmers were ineligible to apply.

Even among Western states, some farmers have expressed concern that certain states have received more aid than others. For example, California and Idaho have similar numbers of applicants, but Idaho producers have received less than half as much aid.

# Judge in Seattle to rule on wolf removal

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

A judge in Seattle said Monday he may rule within two weeks on whether the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife can continue shooting wolves to protect livestock.

King County Superior Court Judge John McHale presided over a 3 1/2-hour video conference on the legality of lethal control in the eastern one-third of Washington, where wolves are not federally protected.

Claire Loeb Davis, an attorney for wolf advocates, asked the judge to bar Fish and Wildlife from killing wolves until the department studies the environmental consequences and firms up its rationale.

Fish and Wildlife's lawyer, Amy Dona, asked McHale to reject what she called an invitation to micromanage wolf recovery. The department needs lethal control to foster tolerance in northeast Washington, she said. "It's full of wolves."

Wolf advocates and environmental groups are challenging Fish and Wildlife's killing of wolves on several fronts. Monday's court hearing was the most extensive yet on whether the department should suspend the practice and conduct a public review that could take years.

King County residents John Huskinson and Genevieve Jaquez-Schumacher, and Tim Coleman, director of the Kettle Range Conservation Group, filed the lawsuit last August to prevent Fish and Wildlife from removing the OPT wolf pack in Ferry County. McHale issued a temporary restraining order, but it was a few hours after the department had eliminated the pack.

The hearing Monday was on the broader issue of whether Fish and Wildlife has skirted the State Environmental Policy Act and Administrative Procedure Act. At the end of the hearing, McHale asked both sides to submit their desired conclusions.

He said he hoped to rule within a week after that.

Fish and Wildlife argues it doesn't have to do an environmental review before removing dangerous wildlife, including wolves. Dona said the department concluded shooting the OPT pack was the only way to stop chronic attacks on cattle.

"We were beyond chronic. We were in potential hyper-chronic mode," she said.

The cattle were grazing in the Colville National Forest and belonged to the Diamond M Ranch — identified in court as "Producer X." Fish and Wildlife also culled packs on the same grazing allotment the previous three years.

Loeb Davis said the department was refusing to recognize a brutal cycle and reconsider its approach to wolf management.

She argued the ranch took minimal steps to prevent the attacks, a claim Dona disputed. The department determined putting more riders on the allotment wouldn't stop the depredations, Dona said.

"Range-riding is not a silver bullet. They're not everywhere. They're not cattle baby-sitters," she said.

Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind decides when to use lethal control, guided by what the department calls a non-binding "protocol." Wolf advocates argue the protocol amounts to a program that should have been subjected to public vetting, like other government actions.

The protocol calls for Susewind to consider lethal removal after three depredations in 30 days or four in 10 months. It's not a firm line. The department says it considers whether the attacks can be curbed without shooting wolves.

Susewind on Friday authorized the killing of up to two wolves in the Togo pack in Ferry County. The pack had attacked at least seven calves over 10 months, according to the department.

# WDFW to target Togo wolf pack

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

Washington Fish and Wildlife plans to kill as many as two wolves in a pack that has a history of attacking cattle in the Kettle River range in northeast Washington.

The Togo pack, which has four adult members, injured a calf, the department confirmed June 6. It was the first attack of the year by the pack, but the seventh in the last 10 months. The department's protocol calls for considering lethal removal after four attacks in 10 months.

Fish and Wildlife Director Kelly Susewind authorized lethal control June 19. The department was to start the operation Tuesday.

One wolf in the pack is wearing a radio-tracking collar placed on it by the Colville tribe.

Fish and Wildlife said the rancher whose calf was



WDFW

**A wolf in the Togo pack in Ferry County in northeast Washington. The pack has attacked another calf.**

injured has tried to prevent the attacks. Range-riders have watched the cattle regularly. Twice, a range-rider camping near the herd hazed wolves at night by yelling, shining a spotlight and shooting into the air.

The department said killing the wolves would not harm the state's goal of hav-

ing wolves spread throughout the state. Most of Washington's wolves are now concentrated in northeast Washington, particularly in Ferry and Stevens counties.

By waiting until Tuesday to start the lethal-removal operation, Fish and Wildlife fulfills a pledge it gave a Thurston County judge in

2018. The delay gives wolf advocates time to seek an emergency court order stopping the operation.

The Center for Biological Diversity, which has sought such an order in previous cases, issued a statement, saying the department was rushing to lethal removal. The organization, however, did not plan to seek a restraining order, an attorney for the group said Monday.

In a previously scheduled hearing, wolf advocates were due to argue in King County Superior Court on Monday that Fish and Wildlife's lethal-removal protocol for wolves was implemented without enough public comment or environmental study.

Fish and Wildlife killed one Togo wolf in 2018 because of the pack's attacks on cattle. Susewind reauthorized lethal control last summer, but no wolves were removed.

# Vietnam lowers wheat tariffs, raising U.S. farmers' hopes

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

Vietnam has reduced its tariffs on U.S. agricultural products, and U.S. wheat farmers hope that means more opportunities for sales.

"We went from a 5% tariff down to a 3% tariff," said Dalton Henry, vice president of policy for U.S. Wheat Associates, the overseas marketing arm for the industry.

That might not seem like much

of a reduction, he said, but it's significant.

"The reality is, when you're talking about shipping vessels at 50,000 or 60,000 tons, and 5% on a lot of wheat would be somewhere in the \$12 to \$15 range per ton, that becomes real money pretty fast," he said.

Vietnam has purchased more than 450,000 tons of U.S. wheat during the last year, a record and nearly double the long-term average, Henry said.

"They're not a Top 10 customer, but they're right outside of it," he said. "If they would continue to grow, they're certainly not outside the realm of being in that category one day."

Vietnam purchases 3 million to 5 million tons of wheat each year.

The U.S. has been able to tap further into the market because of reduced production in Australia, Henry said.

As Vietnam's individual incomes increase, consumers

move from purchasing rice as their primary carbohydrate into more high-end baked goods. This means purchasing higher quality wheat, including soft white wheat primarily grown in the Pacific Northwest, hard red spring wheat and hard red winter wheat, Henry said.

The next step is to find ways to further reduce tariffs, Henry said. Competing wheat suppliers to Vietnam are now down to no tariffs because of preferential trade agreements, he said.

Vietnam is not currently in line for a bilateral free trade agreement with the U.S., Henry said.

Discussions with the United Kingdom, European Union and Kenya are ongoing, but other negotiations aren't in the works, he said.

As those talks progress, the U.S. wheat industry would like to see talks resume for potential trade agreements with countries in the critical South Asian market, he said.

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2016 RAM PRO TRK  
VIN= ZFBERFATXG6C54948  
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
DUSTIN A & STEPHANIE L THOMPSON  
CLACKAMAS FEDERAL C.U

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VIN= 5YFBPRHE0FP185304  
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
AHMED A MOUSA  
BANK OF AMERICA NA

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2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2015 CHRYSLER 200 4DR  
VIN= 1C3CCAB7FN737248  
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
DARYL RAY ROBERTSON  
US AGENCIES CREDIT UNION

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VIN= 5NPDH4AE5EH474757  
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
KELSI A BABICK  
CAPITAL ONE AUTO FINANCE

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2018 TOYOTA RA V4 UT  
VIN= 2T3RFREV7JW735067  
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
COREY A & LORINDA M DUNCANSON  
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2015 ISUZU NHD CB  
VIN= JALC4WL60F7002594  
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
IRS ENVIRO OF PORTLAND INC  
WASHINGTON TRUST BANK

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2016 HYUN TUCSON 4DR  
VIN= KM8J33A4XGU113614  
Amount due on lien \$1,675.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
FELICIA MAY WORTHING  
SANT ANDER CONSUMER USA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2016 TOYOTA COROLLA SCION CP  
VIN= JF1ZNA17G9704147  
Amount due on lien \$1,975.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
QUINTON LEE SHRIVER  
ONPOINT COMMUNITY C.U.

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VIN= 2T1BURHE7GC581076  
Amount due on lien \$1,655.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ADRIENNE S SCHUTTE  
WELLS FARGO AUTO

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2015 FORD EXPLORER UT  
VIN= 1FM5K8GT1FGC64953  
Amount due on lien \$1,595.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
JESSICA JO VICARS  
CARMAX BUSINESS SERV LLC

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2017 FORD FUSION 4DR  
VIN= 3F6GPOLL8HR386012  
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
KELLY A & RACHEL M GREER  
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2010 HONDA INSIGHT 4DR  
VIN= JHMZEH2H76A5003673  
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ELIZABETH ANNE POUJADE SCOTT  
OREGON COMMUNITY C.U

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VIN= 1FUJGLCK39LAK2905  
Amount due on lien \$1,595.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ADVANCE AUTO/TRUCK INC  
VALENTIN P BORISHKEVICH

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VIN= KM8JCA43GU259935  
Amount due on lien \$1,595.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
JONATHAN RIAN ARCHIBALD  
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK NA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 1994 WINN MH  
VIN= 457U91J5RC013695  
Amount due on lien \$1,535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
GILLASPIE TRUSTU/A/D/ T&R GILLASPIE

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2014 SUBARU FORESTER 4W  
VIN= JF2SJAEC2EH533606  
Amount due on lien \$1,595.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
STEPHANIE JENSURUD & ANDREW AINNU  
OREGON COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2018 TOYOTA RAV 4U  
VIN= JTMJDREJ7JD195421  
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
LAURA L & GARY W SEIDE  
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2014 TOYO COROLLA 4DR  
VIN= 5YFBURHE8EP112186  
Amount due on lien \$1,935.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
RUTH ADELA ROMAN