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EPA proposes limits on chlorpyrifos

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Environmental Protection Agency will consider new restrictions on the pesticide chlorpyrifos, including limiting its use to about a dozen crops, according to a new review.

Final decisions aren't due until at least 2022, and the EPA indicated it may opt for less restrictive measures. The pesticide's future

use may depend on resolving its affect on the brains of infants and unborn children.

EPA said the science is unsettled. If the agency chooses its most-cautious approach, registered uses for chlorpyrifos could be reduced from more than 50 crops to select, "high-benefit" crops.

Apples, alfalfa, strawberries, and spring and winter wheat are on the list, as are tart cherries, asparagus, citrus, cotton peaches, soy-



beans and sugar beets.

"It's a good place to be if you need that material," said the Northwest Horticultural Council's David Epstein, vice president for scientific affairs. "You still have 50 that

fall into the other category."

The EPA on Monday opened a 60-day comment period on its "proposed interim registration review decision." The document presents ways the EPA may reduce exposure to chlorpyrifos, including to pesticide handlers.

The EPA said residential exposure to chlorpyrifos was "negligible." The only approved home use is for roach bait in child-resistant packages. Exposure to chlorpy-

rifos in drinking water in highly localized areas is a concern, though assessing the exposure is difficult, according to the agency.

Washington Friends of Farms and Forests executive director Heather Hansen criticized the EPA for relying on models that she said overstates actual exposure in drinking water.

"Take that out, you're left with

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BETTING ON BIDEN



Agriculture looks for trade stability

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Four years ago, farmers and ranchers were optimistic that incoming President Donald Trump would bring added prosperity to farm country through new and better trade agreements.

Now, they're counting on President-elect Joe Biden to undo the instability and damage caused by Trump's trade wars.

While some in agriculture agreed with Trump's hard line on trade policy, particularly in regard to China, others warned of the toll it would take on an already struggling farm economy. U.S. farm exports decreased from a peak of \$150 billion in 2014 to \$136.6 billion last year.

Low prices for some commodities have driven farm debt to a record high, and the number of farm bankruptcies in 2019 was the highest since 2010 amid the fallout from the global recession.

The Trump administration has distributed \$23 billion in direct payments to farmers and ranchers to offset lost trade with China, but producers have consistently said they want "trade not aid."



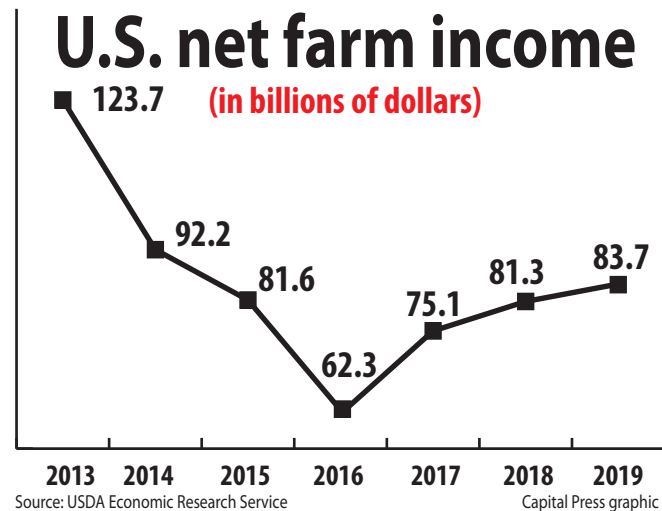
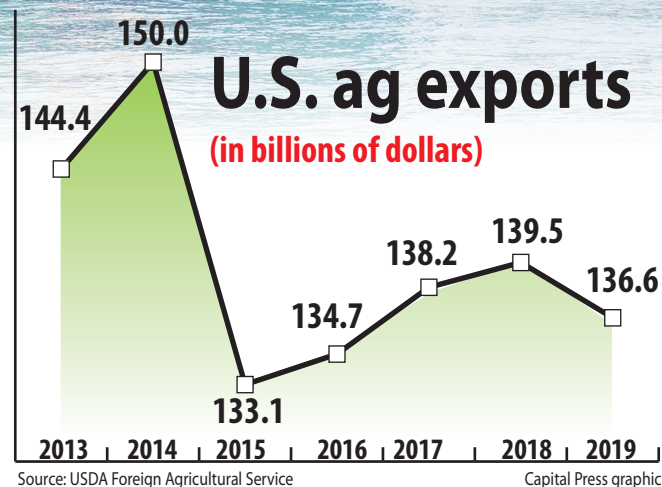
Brian Kuehl

"First and foremost, farmers need stability, predictability," said Brian Kuehl, co-executive director of Farmers for Free Trade, a nonprofit that promotes export opportunities for U.S. agriculture.

That's been missing for four years, he said, adding that instead, farmers have endured trade wars that start with an online "tweet," with no warning of what's to come, followed by retaliation, driving down markets and commodity prices.

"So we need certainty and predictability, that would be point number one," Kuehl said.

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Doing the right thing: Marty Myers helped pioneer sustainable agriculture in Oregon



Marty Myers

By GEORGE PLAVEN
Capital Press

BOARDMAN, Ore. — It didn't take long for Marty Myers to sell Greg Harris and Jeff Wendler on his vision for regenerative, sustainable agriculture at Threemile Canyon Farms.

Harris remembers interviewing for an agronomy position at the farm in 2000, and was captivated by Myers' warm enthusiasm. Twenty years later, Harris remains at Threemile Canyon as the director of farming operations, overseeing 39,500 acres of cropland.

"Listening to Marty, he just had a way about him," Harris said. "You knew right then you wanted to be a

part of it, and he was the guy you wanted to do it with."

Myers, who served as general manager of Threemile Canyon Farms since it opened in 1998 and helped grow the enterprise into one of the largest dairies in the U.S., died Dec. 1 at his home of natural causes. He was 68.

Similar to Harris, Wendler — now the farm's director of livestock operations — met Myers for the first time when he interviewed for a job at the dairy. After just 20 minutes, Wendler said he knew this was where he wanted to work.

"I canceled all the other interviews I had," Wendler said. "He was proud of this place. But he always wanted to do the right thing."

For Myers, doing the right thing meant caring for the people, animals and being good stewards of the land. He pioneered the closed-loop system at Threemile Canyon, an award-winning model that recycles dairy waste on-site as much as possible.

Closed-loop system

It all starts with the cows. Threemile Canyon has about 35,000 milking cows and close to 70,000 cattle in total. All that manure has to have someplace to go, so Myers innovated to come up with several solutions.

First, manure is used as nitrogen-rich fertilizer for the thousands

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