

FFA seeks new CEO, seizes virtual opportunities

By SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN
Capital Press

FFA has faced major changes during the COVID-19 pandemic, including national leadership transitions and new virtual opportunities.

At a Northwest Agricultural Show virtual session Tuesday, FFA panelists talked about changes within the organization.

Despite COVID-19, they said, FFA's membership is growing. Moving to virtual and hybrid formats has been challenging but has opened new opportunities for students. On the national level, FFA's CEO since 2016, Mark Poeschel, resigned in mid-January and the organization is expected to announce a new CEO by mid-summer.

"A lot is changing this year," said Briana Tanaka, former FFA student and the event moderator.

When Poeschel stepped down last month, neither he nor the organization commented publicly on his reasons for leaving.

"It's been my distinct honor to serve in this role since August 2016. I know I haven't always made everyone happy; I know there have been challenges we have faced during my tenure, but my intentions have been for the best interests of FFA and our student members,"



Oregon FFA President
Grace Adams, Dayton

Poeschel said in a statement at the time.

In the virtual session, Brian Field, president of Harvest Capital Company and chairman of the National FFA Foundation's President Advisory Council, told attendees that Poeschel left FFA "on very strong financial footing and poised for the future in a way that we've never seen before — very, very strong, and very fiscally ready to expand."

Now, Field said, "a CEO search is going on." Field said he anticipates FFA will announce a new CEO around July.

In the meantime, he said, "FFA is alive and well and in very good shape."

According to panelists, FFA has around 776,000 members and continues growing — even during the pandemic.

Grace Adams, a recent high school graduate and Oregon's current FFA president, said although she sympathizes with people's frustration with COVID-19 lockdowns, she's tired of people assuming her year "sucks." In fact, Adams said, it's been an amazing year for FFA.

Adams said she's been able to teach virtual agriculture curriculum to students across Oregon, build a wider network, organize "safe" business and industry tours and even hosted an online statewide leadership camp.

"It's been a different experience," she said, citing challenges. "But we've also had new opportunities."

Not all FFA students come from a rural background. One of the panelists, Isabelle James, said she grew up in an urban community and estimated she's never had a backyard larger than about 20 by 20 square feet.

"FFA opened me to ag," she said.

Joining the organization opened her mind to a whole world of career possibilities. She said her heart is currently set on becoming a veterinarian.

Field agreed that FFA has helped students, regardless of their backgrounds, succeed in agricultural careers. He said that as virtual options continue to expand, he expects the organization to continue thriving.



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press File

An Oregon dairy barn. Dairies are among the businesses facing food safety fee hikes.

Oregon lawmakers urged against hiking food safety fees

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Farmers, processors and grocers are encouraging Oregon lawmakers to restore food safety funding with general tax revenues rather than sharply increase maximum fees on their industries.

In 2017, the Legislature shifted more of the responsibility for funding the state's food safety inspection program to regulated businesses, such as dairies, egg handlers, bakers and grocery stores.

Their license fees now represent 75% of the program's funding, up from 60% before the fee structure was changed. The balance comes from the state's general fund, which comes from taxes on individuals and companies.

The state Department of Agriculture, which oversees food safety, is now asking lawmakers to "reverse the downward trend" in the program's budget by hiking maximum license fees by 15% in mid-2022 and another 15% in mid-2023.

"This downward trend has occurred over time and has slowly eaten away at the reserves that were able to offset the shortfalls, which helped to alleviate any fee increases," said Lauren Henderson, ODA's assistant director, during a recent legislative hearing.

Due to the 2017 change in funding responsibilities, an additional \$1.4 million in costs were shifted to licensed entities, which has since quickly depleted the program's cash balance, he said. "It takes forever to get a savings built but it only takes your roof leaking to make it go away."

The Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Northwest Grocery Association and the processor group Food Northwest

are now asking lawmakers to return to a more equal funding mix for the food safety program.

"We are placing more of the burden on the backs of our farmers and ranchers at a time they can't afford it," said Mary Anne Cooper, OFB's vice president of public policy.

The agriculture industry is already struggling with the economic toll of the coronavirus pandemic while natural resource agencies are proposing fee hikes, she said. "This is one of the most significant we've seen across any program area."

The ODFA wants lawmakers to allocate more general fund dollars to food safety rather than approve the fee increases proposed by farm regulators in Senate Bill 33.

"As crafted, we oppose the current bill but invite constructive conversations about the appropriate increases in fees coupled with sufficient general fund appropriations for the food safety program," said Tami Kerr, ODFA's executive director.

Food Northwest, which represents processors, said that ODA does an excellent job administering the food safety program and wants to see the agency well-funded but cannot support the proposal.

"I'm in an awkward position because I can't ever remember testifying in opposition to an ODA budget request, but that's where I'm at today," said Craig Miller, the group's government affairs director.

The shortfall in food safety funding was caused by the changed funding mix, which effectively caused money collected from fees to be shifted toward other purposes, he said. "Those general fund dollars should be refunded back into the program."

Oregon irrigators fear legislation would erode due process

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Irrigators would no longer be able to automatically block certain water shut-offs under a bill that Oregon farm groups claim would endanger due process rights.

Under the "automatic stay" provision of Oregon water law, an irrigator can file a lawsuit to immediately stop the enforcement of a government order against pumping or diverting water.

The mechanism — called a harmful loophole by detractors and a necessary protection by defenders — has repeatedly come under fire in the Legislature in recent years.

House Bill 2244 would prevent irrigators from invoking the automatic stay against shut-offs specifically intended to preserve in-stream water rights owned by tribal governments and state agencies.

Proponents argue that HB 2244 makes a nuanced change to the automatic stay provision rather than eliminating it altogether, but opponents say it simply creates unfair preferences for specific types of water rights holders.

The bill's supporters say revising the automatic stay



Mateusz Perkowski/Capital Press File

Irrigators are defending a legal mechanism that automatically blocks enforcement orders against water pumping and diversions in Oregon.

process is necessary to correct the injustice suffered by the Klamath Tribes, who've been prevented from enforcing their water rights by the provision.

"This is contrary to almost every proceeding in court, where the preliminary injunction must be supported by a showing of a likelihood of prevailing," said Rep. Marty Wilde, D-Eugene, the bill's chief sponsor.

Irrigators who believe that water regulators aren't justified in seeking a water shut-off can still file a motion for a preliminary injunction, he said during a recent legislative hearing.

"That does not mean the junior water right holder is without recourse in this case," Wilde said. "It just restructures how that recourse would occur."

Ed Goodman, attorney for the Klamath Tribes, said Oregon's automatic stay provision is an anomaly that turns due process on its head, since senior water rights holders aren't even notified that their enforcement action has been blocked.

"I get a puzzled look from attorneys who practice water law in other states any time I mention this bizarre automatic stay process," he said. "If it's so necessary to pro-

tecting and preserving water rights, ask the question why it isn't used anywhere else in the arid West."

Defenders of the automatic stay provision counter that it ensures irrigators have a chance to challenge potentially incorrect enforcement orders before they can take a steep economic toll.

"This is not a loophole as it's been characterized by the bill's proponents. It's a necessary procedure for due process," said Sarah Liljefelt, attorney for the Oregon Cattlemen's Association.

While every state has different water enforcement procedures, they all have mechanisms in place to provide irrigators with due process before depriving them of private property, she said.

The core of the issue isn't about senior water rights holders versus junior ones, but rather about the government's burden to prove that enforcement orders are justified, Liljefelt said.

"Since there is no due process prior to that shut-off, due process is not satisfied without the ability to stay the order and seek judicial review," she said.

Proponents have praised SB 2244 for making narrow reforms to the automatic stay process, but the proposal actually just "adds insult to injury," said Dominic Carollo, attorney for the Water for Life irrigator group.

Giving preferential treatment to certain in-stream water rights at the expense of all others in Oregon raises constitutional questions about equal protection under the law, he said.

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 03/01/2021. The sale will be held at 10:00am by

COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 POLS RZR ATV
VIN = 3NSRAD922LG827447
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
BRANDON MICHAEL NUORALA
SHEFFIELD FINANCIAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2010 CHEV SILVERADO
VIN = 1GCSKSE3XZ137171
Amount due on lien \$2,015.00
Reputed owner(s)
DIMAR SIDING COMPANY
UNITUS COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2014 HYUNDAI ACCENT 4DR
VIN = KMHCCT4AE9EU627507
Amount due on lien \$1,575.00
Reputed owner(s)
MARIA GUADALUPE SIERRA RAMOS

LEGAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 CHEV CRUZE 4DR
VIN = 1G1BE55M1H7216118
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
ANDRES RESENDEZ JR & LUZ MARTINEZ
COLUMBIA CU

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 CHEV TRAX 4D
VIN = KL7CJNSB4LB027102
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
ELIZABETH & JASON HINES
CLACKAMAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2013 FORD FLEX 4D
VIN = 2FMHKG6D89BD08218
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
JASON ADAM GRAHAM

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2010 CHEV SILVERADO PU
VIN = 1GCSKSE3XAZ137171
Amount due on lien \$2,015.00
Reputed owner(s)
DIMAR SIDING COMPANY
UNITUS COMMUNITY CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2014 SUBARU FORESTER 4W
VIN = JF25JAMCXEH444853
Amount due on lien \$1,815.00
Reputed owner(s)
HEIDI LYNNE HINMAN

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 CHEV SILV PK
VIN = 1GCAKXEYKFE219437
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
INTEGRITY MACHINERY MOVING LLC
ALLY FINANCIAL

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2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 HARLEY FLTRU MC
VIN = 1HD1KGF18K8671705
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
THOMAS R & MONICA A DURKIN
UNITUS COMMUNITY C. U.

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2016 KIA FORTE 4DR
VIN = KNAFZ4A87G5556473
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
TIMOTHY WILLIAM SWALES JR
AUTO ACCEPTANCE DA8681

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2010 CHEV SUBURBAN LL
VIN = 1GNJKJE36AR121950
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
ELIZABETH ANN BAUDINO
LOBEL FINANCIAL CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2018 HONDA CIVIC 4DR
VIN = 2HGFC2F86JH526335
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
AIDAN K & KAREN L MYERS
HONDA LEASE TRST LSSR

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OPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 CHEV BOLT 4H
VIN = 1G1FY6506L4110477
Amount due on lien \$1,515.00
Reputed owner(s)
OLGA GRITSEVSKAYA & ACAR
LEASING
WELLS FARGO AS CTL AGENT

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2019 KIA FORTE 4DR
VIN = 3KPF24AD9KE139390
Amount due on lien \$1,735.00
Reputed owner(s)
JENNIFER L & CHRISTOPHER P
KASTRUP
AMERICREDIT FIN SVCS

LEGAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
HENDRICKS TRUCK & DIESEL REPAIR
1339 MILLER DR STAYTON, OR
2008 FORD F250 PU
VIN = 1FTSW21R88EB80715
Amount due on lien \$7,597.03
Reputed owner(s)
KOB I SMITH
KOB I EDWARD SMITH
OREGON STATE CU

LEGAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2017 CHEV CAMARO 2D
VIN = 1G1FD1RX2H0137613
Amount due on lien \$2,335.00
Reputed owner(s)
ADRIEL & ABEL LEAL
GM FINANCIAL

LEGAL

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2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2014 TOYOTA RAV 4 UT
VIN = 2T3DFREVEW132466
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
MINGMING FENG

LEGAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2013 CHEV MALIBU 4DR
VIN = 1G11D5SR5DF210011
Amount due on lien \$3,095.00
Reputed owner(s)
YISSEL LOPEZ PEREZ C/O COPART

LEGAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2016 SUBARU FORESTER 4W
VIN = JF25JADCSGH561775
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
STEV I NICOLE PEREZ
CHARTWAY FEDERAL C. U.

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2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR
2020 POLS RZR ATV
VIN = 3NSRAD922LG827318
Amount due on lien \$1,835.00
Reputed owner(s)
BOND DAVID SUMEY
OREGON STATE CREDIT UNION