



DAIRY SPECIAL SECTION INSIDE

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THE **HEARTBEAT** OF PULSES



Tim McGreevy, executive director of the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, at his family's farm outside Pullman, Wash.

Tim McGreevy believes in the future of dry peas and lentils

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Tim McGreevy practices what he preaches.

A few years ago, the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council, where McGreevy is chief executive officer, promoted the “half-cup habit,” challenging consumers to eat half a cup of pulses three times a week.

So, for breakfast every morning, McGreevy and his wife, Christine, started eating eggs and

lentils — or chickpeas or beans.

Now, he says, he's even more of a true believer in pulses.

“I've taken that campaign and brought it into my own life,” he said. “I just feel better. These crops, they are so good for your health, but they also just taste great. I'm the better for it.”

McGreevy, 62, has a wide, gentle grin. He is thoughtful and at every moment seems overfilled with gratitude for his family and career.

“I've been blessed my whole life,” he said at the council's office, which straddles the Idaho-Washington state line near Moscow, Idaho.

When McGreevy first took the job nearly 30 years ago, pulses — peas, lentils and chickpeas, also known as garbanzo beans — were grown on about 400,000 acres in those two states.

See Pulses, Page 11



Courtesy photo

Tim McGreevy, about 6 years old, with his father Dan McGreevy, a crop adviser and plant manager for the McGregor Co. for 33 years. Dan passed away in 2010.



Courtesy photo

Young Tim McGreevy shows a pig at the fair.

TIM MCGREEVY

Occupation: Chief executive officer, USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council

Age: 62

Hometown: Pullman, Wash.

Current location: Moscow, Idaho

Education: Bachelor's degree in general agriculture and communications; master's degree in agricultural economics, Washington State University

Websites: <https://www.usapulses.org/>

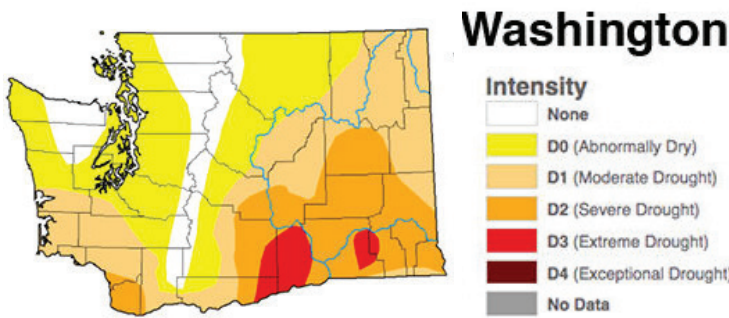
Drought looms in Washington; relief fund dry

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The Washington Department of Ecology warned May 28 a drought may develop, but if conditions worsen the state has no money set aside for relief projects.

Washington lawmakers didn't appropriate funds for a drought emergency in the new two-year \$59 billion operating budget Gov. Jay Inslee signed this month.

Moses Lake Sen. Judy Warrick, the top-ranking Republican on the Senate agriculture commit-



tee, said the state is unprepared to respond to hardships caused by water shortages.

“It caught us flat-footed because our mountain snow was so good,”

she said. “It appeared that we were going to be OK, and all of a sudden we're not.”

The driest March-April since 1926 has put 54% of Washing-

ton in a drought, the U.S. Drought Monitor reported May 28.

Portions of Klickitat, Yakima, Benton, Walla Walla and Columbia counties are in “extreme drought,” the second-worst category behind “exceptional drought.”

An above-normal snowpack continues to supply irrigation districts, including in snowmelt-dependent Yakima County, the state's top agricultural county. The dry spring, however, has lowered rain-reliant rivers.

River flows from Spokane to the Olympic Peninsula are less

than half of normal, according to the Northwest River Forecast Council.

Ecology issued a drought advisory for east of the Cascades as well as southwest Washington and the coast. The advisory serves as an alert and doesn't activate any government action.

If the state declares a drought emergency, Ecology will be able to authorize water-right holders to use emergency wells, but that won't help dryland farmers.

See Drought, Page 11

Pandemic ignites organic sales

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

U.S. organic sales reached new highs in 2020, jumping by a record 12.4% to \$61.9 billion. It marked the first time that total sales of organic food and non-food products surpassed the \$60 billion mark.

The annual growth rate was more than twice the 2019 pace of 5%, according to the 2021 Organic Industry Survey released this week by the Organic Trade Association.

Demand jumped by near-record levels in almost every organic food aisle in 2020, increasing U.S. organic food sales a record

12.8% to a new high of \$56.4 billion. Almost 6% of all food sold in the U.S. in 2020 was certified organic.

The COVID-19 pandemic caused consumer dollars to shift almost overnight from restaurants and carry-out to groceries. Consumer habits were upended, online grocery shopping and grocery deliveries exploded and new products were tried as families ate three meals a day at home, the Organic Trade Association reported.

“The pandemic caused abrupt changes in all of our lives. We've been eating at home

See Organic, Page 11



Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

Organic food sales increased at a record pace in 2020, according to the Organic Trade Association.

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