



Getty Images

Insects are increasingly used as a source of protein and other minerals for people, poultry and livestock.

PEST TO PROTEIN

How insects could revolutionize the way we eat and feed livestock

By MIA RYDER-MARKS
Capital Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — In a commercial kitchen near downtown, Joanna Newcomb delicately stirs a mixture of taco seasoning and crickets in a metal bowl. She dances around the small space, first spreading a thin layer of the insects on a cookie sheet, then popping them into a large oven to let them absorb the spices. “I always feel very strongly about getting each cricket,” Newcomb said a few minutes later as she began to spoon the finished product into brown pouches. Only a few small legs and wings left were astray on the cookie sheet.

Newcomb is part of a worldwide movement — using insects as food for people and feed for livestock. While eating bugs is a novelty for most people in North America and

Europe, insects and their larvae represent sustenance for more than 2 billion people who live in other parts of the world.

Combined with a global population projected to reach 10 billion in the next 30 years and less arable farmland due to development, the challenges facing farmers are substantial. As they grapple with producing more food on less land, the answer might be smaller than they think: insects.

‘And a side of bugs, please’

Newcomb is the owner of Chomper Cricket Foods, a food company that sells crickets sprinkled with seasonings such as

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Mia Ryder-Marks/Capital Press
Joanna Newcomb, owner of Chomper Cricket Foods, spoons crickets into pouches at the Feast World Kitchen in Spokane, Wash.

Convoy delivers hay, fire donations to Southern Oregon

By GEORGE PLAIVEN
Capital Press

MALIN, Ore. — One year ago, as wildfires tore through the Willamette Valley, ranchers in the Klamath Basin extended a helping hand by donating more than 170 tons of hay to feed displaced livestock from burned pastures.

With drought and fires now scorching Southern Oregon, the favor is being returned.

Hay, feed and other donations from across the state arrived Aug. 14 to assist those same producers who received no irrigation water this summer, as well as victims of the 413,717-acre Bootleg Fire that has destroyed 161 homes and thousands of acres of grazing land.

Like 2020, the event was organized by #TimberUnity and delivered via what has become the group’s signature flourish — a large convoy.

Trucks left the Portland area at 4 a.m., Eugene at 6 a.m. and reached Malin — a small community south of Klamath Falls along the California border — by 10 a.m.

“These are our farmers, and they need help,” said Tasha Webb, #TimberUnity secretary and chair of the group’s disaster relief committee. “The donations have just been amazing.”

Once in Malin, the hay and feed was delivered to Fred Simon’s farm where he assisted with drop-off and pickup.

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Holly Dilleluth/For the Capital Press
Ernie Madera and Mari Mock, of Central Point, Ore., affiliated with TimberUnity, delivered more than 50 bales of hay from Central Point to Malin Saturday morning.



Holly Dilleluth/For the Capital Press
Members of TimberUnity from around Oregon delivered more than 300 tons of hay to Klamath Basin farmers and ranchers. It was a returned favor from Willamette Valley growers after Basin farmers delivered them hay in 2020.

NOAA: La Nina likely to bring relief to NW farmers this winter

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Portions of the Pacific Ocean cooled considerably in July, affirming that a La Nina weather system likely will form this fall, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said Aug. 12.

NOAA’s Climate Prediction Center pegged the odds of a La Nina prevailing in November, December and January at 69%.
Most likely, the La Nina will be

weak, according to NOAA, though the agency estimated the chances of a moderate La Nina at 1-in-3 and a strong La Nina at 1-in-10.

La Ninas occur when cooling sea-surface temperatures trigger atmospheric changes that shift incoming jet streams northward.

La Nina winters are often cooler and wetter in Washington and much of Oregon and Idaho, while California and other southern-tier states are warmer and drier. La Nina could mean a good snowpack for North-

west irrigators, but worsen the drought in the Southwest.

The U.S. Drought Monitor on Aug. 12 reported that 95% of Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington were in drought.

One-quarter of the West was in an “exceptional drought,” the worst classification. California and Utah are the hardest hit states.

An El Nino shifts jet streams southward, intensifying winter

storms in the southern tier of the U.S. and leaving the Northwest warm and dry. NOAA sees almost no chance that an El Nino will form this winter.

An La Nina prevailed last winter, as Washington built up a good snowpack that’s helping irrigators weather a dry spring and hot summer.

The La Nina faded last spring and since then ocean temperatures have been normal. NOAA expects the neutral conditions to prevail for the rest of the summer.

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