

People & Places

Garbanzos perfect crop for dry year

By JULIA HOLLISTER
For the Capital Press

RIVERDALE, Calif. — Daniel Errotabere and his brothers, Jean and Remi, had an idea when they began working on the family’s San Joaquin Valley farm in the late 1980s — what about garbanzo beans?

“This crop works very well with our buried drip crop beds for crop rotation and improved profit,” he said. “They are getting more popular with consumers. However, the price for the bean is the real driver.”

Planting 640 acres of garbanzo beans — also known as chickpeas — begins either in November and December or early spring, depending on the varieties. Harvest takes place in late June or July.

The brothers also grow a diverse portfolio of other crops such as almonds, pistachios, wine grapes, tomatoes, cotton, garlic and cereals on their 6,500 acres.

This region is especially vital to the state’s agriculture, because it has a Mediterranean climate, and much of the nation’s fruits and vegetables are grown here.

The fresh garbanzos are marketed through Morgan Murray of Califresh in Sanger.

“Garbanzos have been in the Errotabere rotation for three decades, due to their agronomic benefits and return,” Murray said. They are harvested dry for their canning quality and green for



Courtesy of Dan Errotabere

Dan Errotabere, center, and his brothers, Jean, right, and Remi, left, grow garbanzo beans and a wide variety of other crops in California’s San Joaquin Valley.

the fresh market.

The beans are harvested with a combine and then trucked to the Tracy-based Rhodes-Stockton Bean Co-op processing warehouse for sizing and cleaning.

Ryan Jacobsen, CEO of the Fresno County Farm Bureau, said Dan Errotabere has contributed significantly to the region’s agriculture.

“I have known Dan for more than two decades through his involvement with Fresno County Farm Bureau,” he said. “He served 26 years on our board, which included a two-year stint as president.

“Dan is a well-known and respected agricultural and

water leader who has made impactful contributions to Central Valley farmers and ranchers over his many decades of service,” Jacobson said. “He has been our resident agricultural water expert, being a trusted voice on the issue.”

Errotabere said the drought has definitely impacted his operation, and his main focus is getting the most crop yield from the water that’s available. Garbanzos fit in well because the water used to grow the crop is minimal. Typically, they use only 1.5 to 1.75 acre-feet of water per acre.

High-efficiency drip irrigation is also used on their

crops, further saving water.

The ongoing drought has posed a huge challenge to the Errotabere brothers — and many other California farmers and ranchers.

“In fact, 2021 is the driest year I have experienced,” he said. “Everything is so much drier due to the lack of rain, hence more water is applied, and this usually comes with little or no allocation.”

Irrigation water prices are “through the roof,” he said. Combined with higher labor prices, the increased costs will ultimately impact the general food consumer in the form of higher prices, he said.

Water challenges are wait-



DANIEL ERROTABERE

Hometown: Riverdale, Calif.

Occupation: Managing partner, Errotabere Ranches with his brothers, Jean and Remi Errotabere

Quote: “We’re farming in an urban state. ... The public doesn’t know all about agriculture, and so there’s a challenge to educate them, and we also have visits to our farm to see, on our land, what we’re doing — it’s better than sitting in an office and trying to describe it.”

ing in the New Year. Next year could also be dry. In addition, many regions are going to implement groundwater restrictions that could mean more farmland has to be followed.

But good news may be on the horizon.

The wet winter — 3.4 inches of rain was recorded at the Fresno Yosemite Airport in December — provides hope that there will be a break in the region’s drought.

Plans for OSU-managed coastal research forest move forward

By SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

Oregon State University, after hosting a public budget meeting last week, is a step closer to potentially managing a 91,000-acre research forest in Oregon’s southern coastal range, spanning Coos and Douglas counties.

The budget is another milestone in the years-long effort to transform the Elliott State Forest into a publicly owned state research forest.

The research vision is also becoming clearer. Last December, Oregon’s State Land Board voted for OSU to further explore how the forest might be used as a research hub. A year later, OSU has a clearer outline for what kinds of research will take place in the forest.

The research forest, experts say, could benefit OSU researchers and students, foresters, small woodland owners and scientists worldwide.

“This is a very rare opportunity to start a research forest of this size,” said Kath-



Oregon State University/Oregon Capital Insider

Elliott State Forest

leen “Katy” Kavanaugh, associate dean for research in OSU’s College of Forestry. “This would be one of the largest research forests in the world.”

Research would include experiments on the role riparian areas play in the recovery of endangered species, exploration of potential new timber harvest systems and the study of steep forest terrains, including geological hazards.

Thomas DeLuca, dean of

Forestry at OSU, said experimental plots — different sections of forest organized by watershed — will be managed differently. When a natural fire occurs in the region, researchers will then study which treatments were most fire-resilient.

Shannon Murray, Elliott State Research Forest director, said the project proposal includes construction of research and laboratory spaces, offices, classrooms and living quarters for

researchers living in the forest on a temporary or long-term basis.

“It’s exciting thinking about the future of research there,” said Murray.

But the project still has a long way to go. 2024 is the proposed research start date, but several pieces of the puzzle must snap into place before that can happen.

The biggest piece is ownership.

Initially, the plan was for OSU to both own and man-

age the forest, but last fall OSU backed out of the plan to take ownership, saying the financial risk was too high.

The forest is supposed to be financially supported primarily by timber harvests.

According to OSU’s models and data from Mason, Bruce & Girard, a consulting firm, harvests are expected to start at a maximum of 1,300 acres per year for the first five years, later dropping as low as 500 acres per year after most major thinning is completed.

Although OSU officials predict profitable timber harvests, there are too many uncertainties, including potential logging limitations because the Elliott provides prime habitat for federally protected species. OSU has decided not to shoulder the risks.

The committee advising OSU and the Department of State Lands about the forest is now exploring an alternative plan: having OSU manage the forest but another entity own it.

CALENDAR

Submit upcoming ag-related events on www.capitalpress.com or by email to newsroom@capitalpress.com.

**FRIDAY-WEDNESDAY
JAN. 7-12**

American Farm Bureau Convention: Georgia World Congress Center, 285 Andrew Young International Blvd., Atlanta, Ga. This is an opportunity to help set the agenda for the leading voice of agriculture in Washington, D.C., and much more. Participate in educational workshops to advance your leadership skills, expand your business acumen and gain insight into the trends and realities impacting food production. Website: <https://www.fb.org/events/afbf-convention/>

**WEDNESDAY- FRIDAY
JAN. 12-14**

Northwest Agricultural Show: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday and 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday, Oregon State Fair and Exposition Center, 2330 17th St. NE, Salem. Join us at the fairgrounds for an ol’ fashioned farm show. We’ll also have a full slate of exhibitors, presentations, seminars and events. Website: <https://northwestagshow.com/>

**SUNDAY-TUESDAY
JAN. 16-18**

NFU Women’s Conference: Holiday Inn and Suites Nashville Downtown Convention Center. Topics will include business management, leadership, community building and more. Website: <https://nfu.org/womensconference/>

**MONDAY-THURSDAY
JAN. 17-20**

IWUA Annual Convention: Riv-

erside Hotel, Garden City, Idaho. Population growth and its impact of the water supply and the need for infrastructure improvements are among the topics that will be covered. Contact: 208-344-6690 Website: www.iwua.org/85th-annual-convention/

**TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY
JAN. 18-19**

The VISION Conference 2022: Renaissance Phoenix Glendale Hotel and Spa, Glendale, Ariz. The conference engages leaders throughout agricultural technology to address the dynamic recent advances in technology, systems and platforms enabling interconnected solutions from farm to retail. Website: <http://www.thevisionconference.com>

**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY
JAN. 19-20**

2022 Northwest Hay Expo: Three Rivers Convention Center, Kennewick, Wash. Sponsored by the Washington State Hay Growers Association, this is a one-stop information center for all things hay. Website: www.wa-hay.org

2022 Idaho Potato Conference: Idaho State University, student union building, Pocatello. The conference includes educational presentations and a trade show. Website: www.uidaho.edu

**FRIDAY
JAN. 21**

SAIF Agri-Business Banquet: 6-9 p.m. Salem Convention Center, 200 Commercial St. SE, Salem. The SAIF Agri-Business Banquet is a celebration of the agricultural community and its impact on the mid-Wilamette Valley. This rich and proud history is honored through spe-

cial entertainment with a message. The speaker will be Terry Tymchuck from the Oregon Historical Society. We will also recognize an outstanding FFA student for leadership in shaping the future of the industry. Contact: 503-581-1466 Website: <https://bit.ly/3sJlPpS>

**SUNDAY-WEDNESDAY
JAN. 23-26**

Dairy Forum 2022: J.W. Marriott Desert Springs Resort & Spa, Palm Desert, Calif. Presented by International Dairy Foods Association, the forum will feature what’s new, now and next for dairy foods. Website: www.idfa.org

**THURSDAY
JAN. 27**

USBI Biochar in the Woods Seminar (online): 9 a.m.-4 p.m. At the day-long, online seminar and the following field day events in Butte County, Calif. (free), you will learn how to make and use biochar onsite to increase the water holding capacity and resilience of forest soils. Website: <https://bit.ly/3q1Ejji>

Uses and Benefits of Collaborative Robots in Manufacturing (online): 10-11 a.m. Is your manufacturing facility undergoing a workforce shortage? Attracting, hiring, and keeping workers is one of today’s key workforce challenges. In this free webinar, we will discuss how collaborative robotics may be able to help. We will include demonstrations and examples of cobots. Website: <https://techhelp.regfox.com/20221robotics>

**TUESDAY-THURSDAY
FEB. 1-3**

Cattle Industry Convention

& NCBA Trade Show: George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas. The convention will include industry speakers and educational events. Website: <http://www.ncba.org>

**TUESDAY-THURSDAY
FEB. 8-10**

World Ag Expo: 9 a.m. International Agri-Center, 4500 S. Las Pina St., Tulare, Calif. One of the world’s largest ag shows returns this year to Tulare, Calif. With hundreds of exhibitors, presentations, seminars and other events, the World Ag Expo attracts attendees from around the nation — and the world. Website: <http://www.WorldAg-Expo.org>

**WEDNESDAY
FEB. 9**

Intro to Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) is an internationally recognized method of identifying and managing food safety-related risk. Participants will receive an International HACCP Alliance seal and certificate. Website: <https://techhelp.regfox.com/introhaccp2022>

**WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY
FEB. 9-12**

Organic Seed Growers Conference: Oregon State University Campus. The Organic Seed Growers Conference is the largest event focused solely on organic seed in North America, bringing together hundreds of farmers, plant breeders, researchers, certifiers, food companies, seed companies, and others from across

the U.S. and around the world. Farm tours and short courses are held prior to the full two-day conference. Website: <https://seedalliance.org/>

**SATURDAY
FEB. 19**

Oregon State University Small Farms Conference: OSU campus, Corvallis, Ore. More information to come. Everything you ever wanted to know about succeeding as a small-scale farmer. Website: <https://bit.ly/3lA8jx9>

**THURSDAY
FEB. 24**

Virtual classes for pesticide applicators (online): 8 a.m.-noon. There will be virtual classes for pesticide applicators’ recertification, offered by Oregon OSHA and the Oregon Farm Bureau Health & Safety Committee. The virtual training will provide continuing education credits for any pesticide applicator licensed in Oregon. Participants will receive pesticide recertification CORE credits to maintain an applicator’s license. The four CORE credit hours provided are approved by the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture’s “Worker Protection Standard: What You Should Know.” Website: <http://www.OregonFB.org/pesticideclass>

**THURSDAY-FRIDAY
FEB. 24-25**

USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum (virtual): The forum will include more than 30 breakout sessions on climate, innovation, trade, commodity outlooks and supply chains. Website: <https://www.usda.gov/oce/ag-outlook-forum>

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CORRECTION

An obituary for Eric Gordon
Stritzke that ran last week
included the wrong address
for the informal open house
celebrating Eric’s life. It will
be Jan. 29 from 2 to 4 p.m.
at Smith Bros. Farms, 30736
Peoria Road, Shedd, Ore.

Correction policy

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