

# Funding secured to create regenerative ranching program

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**  
Capital Press

PORTLAND — A Portland-based conservation group is forming what it says will be the country's largest program to support regenerative ranching across the West.

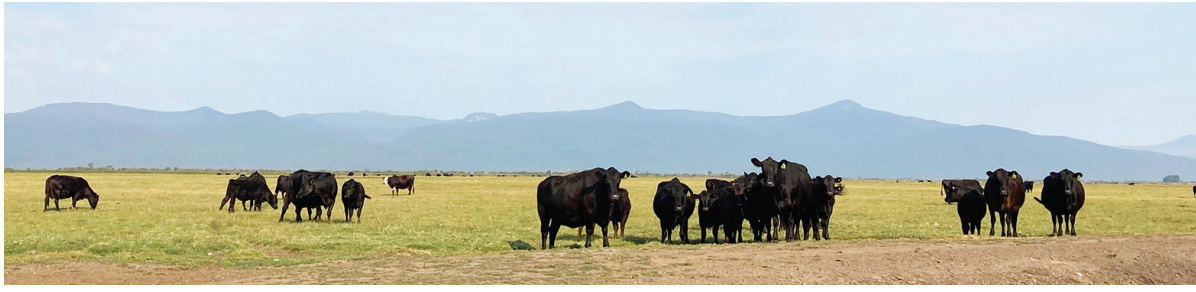
Sustainable Northwest received a \$488,500 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to roll out the initiative, partnering with Country Natural Beef to help ranchers adopt grazing practices that build healthy soils and improve water retention.

The program aims to include 100 ranches and 6.5 million acres of rangeland by 2025.

"When we think about regenerative (agriculture), we really start with the soil," said Dylan Kruse, vice president of Sustainable Northwest. "If you have healthy soil, you'll have a healthier landscape."

For example, rotational grazing is a strategy that falls under regenerative ranching. Livestock are rotated frequently between pastures, allowing forage plants to recover and deepen their root systems.

"You get increased carbon sequestration, you get better water



Sustainable Northwest

**A ranch in the Klamath Basin. Sustainable Northwest received a \$488,500 grant from the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust to roll out what it says will be the country's largest program to support regenerative ranching across the West.**



**Dylan Kruse**

filtration and capture, you get better nutrient management and better forage production," Kruse said. "That can help the bottom line for ranchers."

In late 2020, Sustainable Northwest was awarded funding from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service to put some of these practices to the test on four Oregon ranches. That project is still underway.

But Kruse said they wanted to go bigger. There is no single, large-scale program looking at regenerative ranching, which he sees as a



**Dan Probert**

gap in the market. "This regenerative space is just exploding right now," Kruse said, citing more than \$50 billion in U.S. organic food sales in 2019. "Responding to those demands is really significant."

Country Natural Beef, a ranching cooperative based in Redmond, Ore., was founded on the premise of marketing naturally raised beef to local consumers. The co-op today has 100 members in 14 western states, and sells beef to such supermarkets as Whole Foods and New Seasons Market.

Dan Probert, a Willamette County rancher and the marketing director for Country Natural Beef, said the alliance with Sustainable Northwest makes sense for their members.

"We want to call out the attributes that we have that are important to our consumers, so they feel good about the products they pick," Probert said, adding that ranchers today face increased pressure and competition from plant-based meats among environmentally minded shoppers.

Probert Ranch is one of the four operations working with Sustainable Northwest under the NRCNS grant. The ranch has about 21,000 acres in the Zumwalt

Prairie near Joseph, Ore., divided into more than 100 pastures to facilitate rotational grazing.

Probert said he thinks of regenerative ranching as a "triple bottom line" — promoting healthy cows, healthy people and healthy land. With the new regenerative ranching program, he said Sustainable Northwest will provide them with objective data to validate these claims.

"We use extensive monitoring to tell if we're moving toward or away from our objectives," he said. "We know we have to be ahead of the game in that space."

Steve Moore, executive director of the M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust, said the program "provides an innovative, sustainable solution that helps our natural landscapes thrive while simultaneously growing local business."

"Ranchers in the Pacific Northwest play a vital role in helping our region thrive but face a variety of challenges, including development, climbing costs, climate change and more," Moore said. "Organizations like Sustainable Northwest are doing important work to help support the individuals and families who run these spaces."

## Joint committee formed to consider Oregon ag overtime bill

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**  
Capital Press

SALEM — A bill to end Oregon's agricultural exemption from higher overtime wages will be considered by a joint committee of lawmakers from both chambers of the Legislature.

On Feb. 22, the House Revenue Committee voted to move House Bill 4002 to a newly created Joint Committee on Farm Worker Overtime, which consists of 10 members from the House and Senate.

Six members are Democrats and four members are Republicans.

"I am hoping a rational solution can be achieved that works for all folks," said Rep. Greg Smith, R-Heppner, a member of the House Revenue Committee. Smith said his vote to move the bill shouldn't be interpreted as support for the legislation.

Proponents of HB 4002 argue the exemption is racist and unfairly discriminates against one type of workers,

but critics claim the bill will force farmers to cut weekly work schedules, mechanize their processes and switch to different crops.

Under an amended version of HB 4002 passed by the House Business and Labor Committee, the 40-hour threshold for a time-and-a-half pay rate would be phased in between 2023 and 2027.

Farmers would also be eligible for tax credits that would cover part of their overtime wage payments, up to a total of \$27 million per year.

The tax credit would begin next year at a rate of 75% for farmers with fewer than 25 employees and 60% for those with more, then drop each year until hitting 15% for both groups in 2028, its final year.

Tax credits are typically used to encourage certain behavior, like building affordable housing, said Rep. E. Werner Reschke, R-Klamath Falls, a House Revenue Committee member.

"It shouldn't be used to offset a cost that's artificially placed on producers," Reschke said.

Supporters of HB 4002 haven't been willing to budge on the 40-hour weekly threshold, while farmers don't see the tax credits as a long-term solution, said Mary Anne Cooper, vice president of government affairs for the Oregon Farm Bureau.

## Washington farm groups gird for ergonomics II

By **DON JENKINS**  
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — Washington farm lobbyists are joining the battle to defeat a bill that would allow the Department of Labor and Industries to regulate workplace tasks that could lead to tendinitis, strains and other muscle and joint injuries.

House Bill 1837 would repeal a 2003 voters initiative that banned the department from writing ergonomics rules. Voters were reacting to an L&I rule that required all employers to identify "caution zone jobs."

HB 1837 passed the House 50-48 on Feb. 14 after an eight-hour session, in which majority Democrats rejected an onslaught of Republican amendments. The Senate Labor Committee will have a hearing on the bill Feb. 23.

Washington State Dairy Federation labor policy analyst Scott Dilley said Friday the bill would open the way for onerous rules similar to the ones voters rejected almost two decades ago.

"This is something that was a huge battle 20 years ago, and people still remember it. It's nothing that can be compromised on," he said. "This really is a hill to die on for all employers."

The bill's Democratic sponsors argue that ergonomic rules would reduce injuries and compensation claims related to



Washington State Capitol

repetitive motions or awkward postures.

Ergonomics make work safer for everyone, Labor and Industries safety research director David Bonauto told a House committee.

"Basically, it's about fitting the job to the worker," he said. "Ergonomics is an expansive field. There is added literature, added solutions every year, every day."

Critics of the bill, which includes Republicans and just about every business group lobbying in Olympia, note that L&I already offers to advise employers on ergonomics.

They also note that L&I still has the power to regulate repetitive motions and awkward positions that can lead to injuries.

In a clarifying ruling in 2006, the state Supreme Court ruled that while the initiative tossed out the ergonomics rule, employers still have a duty to keep

workers safe, including from hazardous motions.

HB 1837 opponents recall the last time L&I imposed an ergonomics rule, on top of other safety regulations.

The rule reached into every field. While 57% of agricultural employers reported having workers that lift or lower objects while twisting, that was less than the 76% in "public administration."

The rule was fairly short, but the "concise explanatory statement" was 127 pages. Workers with "caution zone jobs" had to receive "ergonomics awareness training." Plus, caution zone jobs had to be further analyzed to determine whether they were hazardous.

If hazardous, L&I had suggestions for modifying the work. For example, ice cream parlors were advised to sharpen scoopers monthly or store ice cream at no colder than 14 degrees below zero Celsius to reduce "hand force."

L&I advised those "harvesting radishes" to alternate between kneeling and sitting in a chair. The department suggested meatpackers replace "manual deboning" with "machine deboning."

L&I had more tips for several industries, such as construction workers (use lighter nail guns) and clerical workers (smaller paper files to reduce "grip forces"), but did single out agriculture in its explanatory statement.

## ODA accepting grant applications to expand meat processing

By **GEORGE PAVLEN**  
Capital Press

SALEM — The Oregon Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for \$2 million in grants to upgrade and expand meat processing facilities.

Funding was provided by the 2021 Legislature to jump-start investments while ODA revives the state's dormant meat inspection program.

The six-week application period opened Feb. 9, and closes March 23. Grants are capped at \$500,000, and ODA expects requests will exceed available funds. ODA Director Alexis Taylor said the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for more options in meat processing for livestock raised in Oregon. "These critical resources will expand Oregon's regional meat processing capacity and strengthen our food supply chain from disruptions we saw early on in the pandemic," Taylor said. "I am excited to see the proposals we receive which will support our rural economies, open new markets for Oregon products and connect local consumers with local producers."

The Oregon Meat Processing Infrastructure and Capacity Building Grant is open to all Oregon meat processors, including slaughter facilities that fall into one of three categories:

- Those planning to expand capacity to include animals raised in Oregon and operate under the State Meat Inspection Program.
- Those planning to build new plants and facilities to process animals raised in Oregon and will operate under the State Meat Inspection Program.
- Plants operating under USDA inspection that are planning to increase meat processing from animals raised in Oregon.

ODA anticipates its inspection program will begin in July, pending approval from the USDA

Food Safety and Inspection Service. Andrea Cantu-Schomus, ODA spokeswoman, said the program's first set of draft rules were evaluated by the federal government in January.

"We are in the midst of making necessary changes to meet their program requirements," she said. Oregon has not had a state inspection program since 1971, when it was eliminated due to budget cuts. In 2020, the Legislature allocated \$926,195 and three full-time employees to re-establish the program.

Currently, Oregon has 13 USDA-inspected meat plants that are either at full capacity or require ranchers to drive long distances — what are known as "processing deserts."

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 03/07/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by

COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2019 JAY T T  
VIN = 1UJBJHBJXK1JH0210  
Amount due on lien \$1415.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
MICHAEL B & DAWN M JULIAN/COPART

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2018 NISS MURANO LL  
VIN = 5N1AZZMH2JN134157  
Amount due on lien \$1435.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
JAMES & SHANTEL MCLEOD ALLY FINANCIAL

### PUBLIC LIEN SALE U-STORE SELF STORAGE

Auction Starts March 8, 2022  
storageauctions.com  
Ends Friday, March 18, 2022 10am

1st - 1668 Industrial Way SW  
Albany, Oregon

Tawni Anderson, H033; Katrina Briones, A008; Shannon Burroughs, J026, A006; Shannon Caldwell, F022; Devon Combs, A005; Danielle Cook, J042; Michael Dunston, G032; Trent Fox, J049; Kim Gaines, J027; Eduardo Mendoza, Y014

2nd - 1501 Hawthorne Ave NE  
Salem, Oregon

Patrick Barnes, 2E07; Sarah Beskow, 1G02; Kayla Carlile, 1G08; (Ann) Antoinette Casey, 1A02 1A06 1A12; Corrin R Chartier, 2B14; Ollie J Ford III, RC02; Phyllis B Ford, RC04; Serafin Garcia, 1E44; Nicole Haynes, Y1-3; Carla A Heath, 1G05; Raymond P Hoppe, 1A04; Randall Jordan, 2A77; Marcia Lopez-Orejell, 1B05; Quanne Monette, 1F41; Melinda Patterson, RD21; Zachary S Ramey, 1G07; Ricardo Jose Ruiz, 2D18 2D21; Elisha Severson, 1E38; Ashley Smaw, 1F35; Linda White, 1D46; St Jon Wilson, 1A01; Phyllis Woodard, RD03 5281706-1

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 1994 FORD RANGER PU  
VIN = 1FTCR10X7RUE50191  
Amount due on lien \$1415.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
JACOB AARON BAURER

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2015 EVG RT  
VIN = 5ZWFHWE24F1001950  
Amount due on lien \$1435.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
LONNIE JO KRONSTEINER US BANK NA

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 1999 SUBA LEG 4W  
VIN = 453BG685XG628070  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
MATTHEW BROWN

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2019 TOYT TACOMA PK  
VIN = 3TMCZ5AN1KM283924  
Amount due on lien \$1595.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ROOT INS

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2018 FORD F 150 PK  
VIN = 1FTFW1EG1JKC74317  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
KEN LEAHY CONSTRUCTION INC FORD MOTOR CREDIT CO.

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2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2019 SUBA ASC UT  
VIN = 4S4WMAAPD9K3406627  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
NIKOLA & DRACIDA CHERNISHOV CLACKAMAS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2019 TOYT TAC PU  
VIN = 5TF5Z5AN9KX191448  
Amount due on lien \$1415.00  
Reputed owner(s) MATTHEW E & JACQUELINE L MARTELL FIFTH THIRD BANK NATL ASSOC

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2019 DODGE GRA 4D  
VIN = 2C4RDGEG3KR670578  
Amount due on lien \$1455.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ERICA ALEXANDER & ADVANTIS CU

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2013 HOND CIVIC 4DR  
VIN = 19XFB2F57DE261190  
Amount due on lien \$1415.00  
Reputed owner(s) ALBERTO & ALEJANDRA GALLARDO GARCIA MARION/POLK SCHOOLS CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2021 CHEV SLV PK  
VIN = 3GCPYAEHOMG256510  
Amount due on lien \$1455.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
THE HARVER COMPANY GM FINANCIAL

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2010 FORD F 150 PK  
VIN = 1FTFW1EV2AKE27334  
Amount due on lien \$1455.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
KAITLYN L & ZACHARY L YOCOM OREGON STATE CREDIT UNION

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR 2013 TOYT COROLLA 4DR  
VIN = 5YFBU4EE0DP204379  
Amount due on lien \$1435.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
RAE ANN DURHAM RELIABLE CREDIT ASSOCIATION INC