

Farm groups file ‘right to repair’ complaint

By CAROL RYAN DUMAS
Capital Press

Several agricultural groups have filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission claiming John Deere restricts farmers and third parties from repairing equipment it manufactures.

The National Farmers Union, six state Farmers Unions and the advocacy group Farm Action have requested an FTC investigation into Deere & Co.’s restrictions on repairing tractors and other farm equipment.

The complaint also asks the FTC to bring enforcement action against Deere, alleging unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive trade practices.

The farm groups are joined in the complaint by the U.S. and Illinois Public Interest Research groups, the Digital Right to Repair Coalition and iFixit. The groups allege Deere has used anticompetitive restrictions to inhibit and, in many cases, prevent its customers from making important repairs to their own Deere equipment or obtaining repairs from independent dealers or repair shops.

“For years, Deere has deliberately imposed access and information restrictions on its large farm equipment, such as tractors and combines, leveraging its market power in the equipment market to expand its market power in the market for repair services,” the complaint said.

Repeated efforts by Capital Press seeking comment from Deere were unsuccessful.



An agricultural group has filed a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission against John Deere, claiming the company doesn’t give third parties adequate access to repair equipment.

Deere accounts for more than 50% of all sales of large tractors and more than 60% of the market for combines in North America and retains strict control over the proprietary software necessary to diagnose and repair problems with its equipment.

It only allows full access to its authorized technicians, the complaint said.

“When a wide variety of malfunctions, errors or breakdowns occur, or a new part is needed to be installed for another reason, farmers are left in limbo until a Deere-authorized technician accesses the machine and uses Deere’s proprietary software ‘key’ to address the issue,” the complaint said.

Only after Deere has created and sent an encrypted software file to the technician can repairs be completed, the complaint said.

“Deere thus forces farmers who buy Deere equipment to also purchase repair services from Deere technicians, and the company receives a share of the fees Deere-authorized technicians charge,” the complaint said.

Tying repair services to sales of equipment and attempting to leverage market power in the equipment market into the repair market is in violation of the Sherman Act and the FTC Act, the groups argue.

“In addition, Deere has regularly issued false or deceptive statements that materially mislead its primary consumer base — farmers and ranchers. Deere advertises that it is committed to giving farmers ‘repairability’ and that it is taking measures to ensure farmers have access to the tools they need to repair their own equipment,” the complaint said.

First Yakima water-supply forecast looks good

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation predicted Thursday that Yakima Basin irrigators in southcentral Washington will receive full or nearly full water allotments between April 1 and Sept. 30 from federal reservoirs.

Irrigators with senior water rights are expected to get 100%, while junior water right holders are forecast to get 96%. More snow in March would firm up or improve the outlook, the bureau’s river operations engineer, Chris Lynch, said.

“I think we’re actually in a good situation,” he said. “We’re hoping for at least a normal spring to build up our snowpack.”

The March water-supply forecast was the first of the year and will be updated monthly by the bureau, which manages five major reservoirs in the basin. The reservoirs supply water to irrigate about 464,000 acres on both sides of the Yakima River.

The reservoirs typically peak in mid-June as the snowpack melts. The reservoirs decline throughout the summer and fall as farmers irrigate.

Lynch called the March report an “early bird forecast” that calls for estimating how much water will be in the reservoirs on April 1. For now, the reservoirs look promising.

Heavy rain in late February broke what had been a dry month in the region. The rain



Capital Press File
Keechelus Lake and four other Cascade Mountain reservoirs serve the farm-rich Yakima Basin.

increased the amount of water running into the reservoirs, which were at 124% of normal on March 1.

The rain, however, also reduced the snowpack. By March 1, the basin’s snowpacks held 94% of their average amount of water for the date.

Once the snowpack starts running off, it’s like a fast-moving freight train and not easily stopped, Lynch said. Besides more snow, cold weather to stop the melting will help, he said.

“We still depend on the snowpack even though we have good reservoir contents at this point,” Lynch said.

The snowpack typically peaks in April. The National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center forecasts that March, April and May will be cooler and wetter than average in the Pacific Northwest.

The forecast counts on a La Nina persisting in the Pacific Ocean throughout the spring.

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Amount due on lien \$1435.00
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2015 HYUN VELOSTER 2DR
VIN = KMHTC6AE8FU220064
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2010 CHEV CAMARO CP
VIN = 2G1FE1EV1A9113140
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VIN = 1VWB7A34GC006746
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2011 TOYT AVA 4DR
VIN = 4T1BK3DB1BU424066
Amount due on lien \$1455.00
Reputed owner(s) JUAN A ALDAMA & DREAMY R P O LOPEZ
OREGON STATE CREDIT UNION

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2019 VW JETTA 4DR
VIN = 3VWC57BU6KM225656
Amount due on lien \$1415.00
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KEANU CANO & SUSAN DAVIS
VW CREDIT INC

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VIN = 5N1AA0NE0BN619320
Amount due on lien \$1455.00
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2018 JEEP CHEROKEE UT
VIN = 1C4RJF8G2JC299105
Amount due on lien \$1395.00
Reputed owner(s)
PENNY & ERIC GUNDERSON
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2018 CHEV COLORADO PK
VIN = 1GCGTCEN1J1204278
Amount due on lien \$1435.00
Reputed owner(s)
DESIREE M & ZOILA MATA
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Request for Proposals Fiscal Year
July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
The Oregon Beef Council is Soliciting proposals for projects in the following areas:
• Positive Producer Image
• Studying Legislation
• Education related to beef
• Generic promotion of beef
Any individual or organization may propose projects in any of the categories listed above. Projects must meet the Beef Council’s mission of enhancing the beef industry’s image of profitability of Oregon’s beef industry. Approved projects must comply with the Beef Promotion and Research Act and O.R.S. 577. To present a proposal you must complete and submit an Authorization Request Form by March 18, 2022 at 4:00 pm. Download an Authorization Request Form from orbeef.org or by contacting the Oregon Beef Council office (503)-274-2333 or via email at Julie@orbeef.org.

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2006 INTL 420 TRK
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2003 FORD F 350 PK
VIN = 1FTSW31PX3EB62469
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2003 BANTM 23’ CT
VIN = 4WY200L2031024065
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2016 JEEP PATRIOT 4DR
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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-Orejuel, 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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