

R-CALF launches magazine, podcast

Capital Press

In an effort to continue presenting the organization's views on current cattle industry issues and better serve its membership, R-CALF USA has added a podcast and magazine to its communications efforts.

"The inception of the podcast and magazine was truly member-driven," said Karina Jones, R-CALF field director.

"We knew we needed more contemporary communication channels to reach cattle producers and our members. Once it was decided that we would execute these ideas, the response has been overwhelmingly positive," she said.

The "Round Up" podcast, launched in October, features biweekly episodes with guests from around the cattle industry. The podcast focuses on real conversations with cattle producers and beef consumers, said Jaiden Moreland, R-CALF marketing coordinator.

"The podcast has given R-CALF USA a platform to share these real and powerful conversations we are having concerning issues affecting cattle producers and consumers around the country," she said.

The "True Grit" magazine will be delivered quarterly to R-CALF members. The magazine will include features on R-CALF members' cattle operations, made in the USA featured products, R-CALF event recaps, notes from the R-CALF president and vice president, Q&A with R-CALF region directors, legislative and lawsuit updates, short stories written by members and more.

"The magazine will help provide rural America an opportunity to show the rest of the world who grows their food and cares for the environment," said Brett Kenzy, R-CALF president.

"True Grit is being created to inspire and empower, but also to bring positivity and something new to our members," said Moreland, who will serve as editor-in-chief of the magazine

Another year of record-breaking sales for Wilco

Hazelnut Growers of Oregon sees improvement, but still in the red

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
Capital Press

SALEM — For the second year in a row, Wilco posted record-breaking profits in 2021 while navigating pandemic-related stresses and continued red ink in its hazelnut operation.

The agricultural cooperative, based in Mt. Angel, Ore., held its annual member meeting March 17 at the Salem Convention Center where executives announced \$329 million in total sales for 2021, up \$54 million or 19.6% over the previous record set in 2020.

Wilco also earned \$13.8 million in net income, up \$5.6 million over the previous year.

The co-op's board of directors approved \$3.7 million in patronage and revolve cash payments back to members, which was another record and up nearly 50% over 2020.

"We are financially strong



Sam Bugarsky



Wilco

Wilco CEO Sam Bugarsky speaks to co-op members during the annual meeting Thursday at the Salem Convention Center. Board Chairman Glenn Goschie is standing behind him.

and improving," said Bart Walker, chief financial officer of Wilco. "It's been two very strong back-to-back record years in a row."

Each of the co-op's business divisions — including retail stores, energy, Valley Agronomics and Hazelnut Growers of Oregon — posted year over year financial gains in 2021.

Though HGO remains overall unprofitable, it too improved upon its performance from 2020.

Wilco acquired HGO in 2016. Members invested \$20 million in a new hazelnut processing facility in Donald, Ore., which opened in

2018 serving HGO's roughly 200 growers.

By itself, HGO ran a deficit of \$4.48 million in net income last year. That, however, was still an improvement of \$2.2 million over the 2020 losses.

"It's still a net loss at HGO, but we're showing some improvement," Walker said. "We have high expectations that will continue in 2022."

A year ago, Wilco announced it was looking for a minority business partner for HGO. Sam Bugarsky, the co-op's CEO, said there was "quite a bit of interest," though ultimately a

Oregon OSHA plans to revise COVID-19 workplace guidelines

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**
Capital Press

Oregon OSHA is updating its COVID-19 workplace guidelines.

In an email to the Capital Press, agency spokesman Aaron Corvin confirmed that changes to workplace rules are coming.

"We expect to initiate rulemaking to make changes to the COVID rule for all workplaces this week," he said.

Asked about farm-specific workplace rules, Corvin said, "As for the COVID rule regarding employer-provided housing, including on farms, it remains in discussion."

An agency memo states that, with the exception of first responders, firefighters, emer-



Capital Press File

Oregon OSHA is revising its COVID-19 rules.

gency medical services and non-emergency medical transport sectors, Oregon OSHA "will repeal all other remaining industry-specific and activity-specific workplace guidance."

Workplace requirements for "exceptional risk workplaces" — defined by OSHA as workplaces involving direct patient care and similar activities — "will generally remain in place," according to the memo, until OSHA has had discussions with stakeholders and Oregon Health Authority. OSHA plans to repeal the remaining requirements "as they become no longer necessary."

Until the new rulemaking is announced, the memo says that Oregon OSHA will not enforce provisions of COVID-19 workplace rules except for the following:

- In general workplaces, the memo says that employers must allow workers to voluntarily

deal never materialized.

"We're still open to considering relationships, but we're committed to moving forward on our own," Bugarsky said.

Bugarsky said there are reasons to be optimistic about the hazelnut business going forward. He said HGO remains "a work in progress," though they have made strides in reducing production costs at the processing plant through greater efficiency and automation.

HGO's marketing team is also working to grow its brand of Oregon Orchard hazelnut products. Bugarsky said the goal is to offer Oregon Orchard at 50,000 points of distribution. Currently, the brand is available at 15,000 points of distribution.

"We have a chance at profitability in 2023," Bugarsky said.

The vast majority, about 79%, of Wilco's total sales come from its farm retail stores in Oregon, Washington and California. Those stores accounted for more than \$260 million in sales last year, including two new stores that opened in Yakima, Wash., and Sonora, Calif.

Wilco plans to open its 25th retail store this year in Pasco, Wash., after purchasing the location from Bleyhl Co-op. Bugarsky said the store will officially transition to Wilco on April 4.

use facial coverings and provide facial coverings at no cost to workers.

- Employers also must cover the costs associated with COVID-19 testing if the testing is "conducted at the employer's direction."

In the memo, Oregon OSHA recommends general workplaces should continue to use ventilation systems, follow current quarantine recommendations and give notice to workers who have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 within 24 hours. These recommendations are denoted in the memo with the word "should" rather than "must."

More information will be available from OSHA as the rulemaking unfolds.

THE BIGGEST
CHANGE
ISN'T IN
OUR NAME

WideARmatch®

IT'LL BE
IN YOUR
FIELDS.

herbicide

WideARmatch® herbicide. The next-generation of cereals weed control.

By adding Arylex® active and a higher load of fluroxypyr to one of the most trusted names in wheat, you gain improved control of tough weeds like kochia, marestail and Canada thistle. So while you may stop and look twice at the name, once you see the results, you'll never look back. **Get trusted control at WideARmatch.corteva.us.**

WideARmatch®

Arylex™ active

HERBICIDE



™ & ® Trademarks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. WideARmatch® is not registered for sale or use in all states. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency to determine if a product is registered for sale or use in your state. Arylex® is a registered active ingredient. Always read and follow label directions. © 2022 Corteva. CA38-454-020-A (12/31) BR CAAG1WARM056