

# Fuel price outlook depends on what world economy does

By **MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI**  
Capital Press

A serious global economic downturn would cause oil prices to plunge, but that's not the only way fuel expenses could decrease, experts say.

Oil prices would also drop if the Ukrainian conflict is resolved, or if federal energy regulations are relaxed, though those possibilities hardly appear imminent, experts say.

If oil prices do fall because of an economic slump, which some economists fear is looming, the impacts on farm profits would be unpredictable and likely vary by crop sector.

"At the end of the day, I don't think a recession is going to help anybody," said Nolan Schrock, energy division manager at the Pratum Co-op, an Oregon-based farm supplier. "I don't think a recession is something to hope for."

Low inventories may prevent wheat and other commodity crop prices from decreasing as steeply as fuel prices, he said.

However, a recession would



Orlin Wagner/Associated Press File

**Cattle rancher Randy Cree adds diesel fuel to a tractor at his Kansas farm.**

severely impact crops that are highly dependent on the consumer market, such as the grass seed that's ubiquitous in Oregon's Willamette Valley, Schrock said.

"It's probably going to hurt them more," he said.

The price of delivered diesel for on-farm use has shot up from roughly \$2.25 per gallon to \$4.35

per gallon in the past year, demonstrating the value of investing in long-term contracts when prices are low, Schrock said.

"It's not a bad risk management tool," he said.

Oil prices had been rising before Russia's invasion of Ukraine but that war caused a further spike in the costs of fuel and fertilizer, experts

say. Demand for both crops and farm inputs surged as the global economy rebounded with the easing of pandemic-related restrictions.

The price of oil would be easy to predict if an analyst could foresee geopolitical events, but of course that's impossible, said Jim Williams, president of WTRG Economics, which analyzes energy markets.

Russian oil production has declined due to widespread economic sanctions, since roughly half of that country's output is exported, Williams said. "Why produce it if nobody is going to buy it?"

Shipping companies are reluctant to transport Russian oil to countries that haven't imposed sanctions, since they may change their mind at any point, he said. "If I take that Russian crude, will I be able to unload it someplace?"

Though geopolitical turmoil is unpredictable, Williams said it doesn't seem likely that Russia will suddenly end hostilities — and even if it did, economic sanctions may not be lifted immediately.

"It's been a very expensive war for Russia but I don't see it stopping," he said.

More restrictive federal energy policies have also driven up the price of oil and refined fuels, though opinions among experts vary as to the degree of impact.

Williams said the price hike was initially caused by stronger demand from the economic recovery and then aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The Biden administration's "slow-walking" of domestic drilling permits has also inflated prices, though only moderately compared to the other factors, he said.

"They've increased the regulation. The boxes you have to check to drill a well," Williams said.

The Biden administration has been reluctant to loosen drilling restrictions because reducing the U.S. economy's reliance on oil is meant to cut carbon emissions and fight climate change, he said.

"It's certainly a longer-term goal of the Democrat Party," Williams said.

## Washington state vet: Keep birds home until flu passes

By **DON JENKINS**  
Capital Press

Washington State Veterinarian Amber Itle asked bird owners May 19 to not show at fairs and exhibitions or go to live poultry markets while avian influenza circulates in the state.

The state agriculture department has not invoked its emergency powers to contain diseases. Itle said she hoped bird owners will voluntarily comply.

"It would be a total nightmare if we had avian influenza at a market or exhibition," she said at a press conference. "You start to think about the numbers of people that are there and how many people would be impacted."

The agriculture department has confirmed bird flu in nine non-commercial flocks in seven counties since May 5. Highly pathogenic avian influenza was detected in the Northwest late in a U.S. outbreak that has claimed almost 38 million domestic birds.

The outbreak continues coast-to-coast. New Jersey was the 35th state to have a confirmed case. Oregon and Washington were 33rd and 34th. The first case was in a commercial turkey flock in Indiana in early February.

The virus has not been detected in a Washington commercial farm.

"Everybody has been leaning in really hard to try to prevent commercial introduction because as you can well imagine that would be devastating to the industry," state agriculture department veterinarian Dana Dobbs said.

A 2014-15 outbreak of bird flu killed 50 million poultry. The death toll mounted as the virus was spread among commercial poultry barns in the Midwest.

Animal health officials say wild birds are having a greater role in spreading the disease this year. Migratory waterfowl shed the virus, but are often not sickened by it. This year, more wild species are being infected and more are dying.

"Part of the reason that it's so bad is that we have so many birds that are vulnerable," Itle said. "And so we have more opportunity for these birds to spread it between them."

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has documented highly pathogenic avian influenza in 12 wild birds.

Itle said backyard flock owners should keep their birds from coming into contact with wild birds for at least several more weeks.

"As long as we're seeing it circulate in the waterfowl and in the wild birds in our state, we can't feel 100% safe," she said.

"What you want to do is



USDA ARS

**Veterinarians are urging farmers to keep their poultry away from wild birds.**

wait for summer, let things dry out, let things warm up, let that virus die," Itle said. "It's not a very tough virus, but it can persist in a cool, wet environment, which, unfortunately, we're seeing this spring."

Bird flu has been found in non-commercial flocks in Clallam, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Thurston, Spokane and Whatcom counties.

## Quarantine established after bird flu detected in Willamette Valley

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**  
Capital Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Part of Lane County in Oregon's southern Willamette Valley is under quarantine after state agriculture officials confirmed a second case of the highly contagious avian influenza in a backyard poultry flock on May 17.

The quarantine extends roughly 20 miles from Eugene and Springfield north along Interstate 5 to Harrisburg and the Coburg Hills, according to a map provided by the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Unless otherwise exempted, no live or dead birds, poultry products or poultry waste can leave the area until the department ensures there are no more cases of bird flu to avoid spreading the disease.

A backyard poultry flock in Linn County also tested positive for bird flu on May 6. ODA has identified the area from Albany south to

near Corvallis and Lebanon as an "outbreak area," though it has not been placed under quarantine.

Meanwhile, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife confirmed "several" Canada goose goslings recently tested positive for avian flu at Alton Baker Park in Eugene, as well as a red-tailed hawk and osprey collected from Dorena Reservoir near Cottage Grove. They are the first cases of wild birds infected in Oregon.

The latest strain of bird flu spreading across the U.S. — known as H5N1 — was first detected in Oregon on May 6 in a backyard poultry flock in Linn County. Prior to that, the last confirmed case was during the 2015 H5N2 outbreak.

Additional cases of bird flu have been reported in wild and domestic birds in Washington and Idaho.

Dr. Ryan Scholz, state veterinarian for the state Department of Agriculture, said they knew bird flu was coming after a bald eagle in British Colum-

bia tested positive in March. The region is part of the Pacific Flyway, a major north-south route for migrating birds that extends from Alaska to Patagonia in South America.

"Since that detection, we have been hard at work com-

municating with our commercial poultry producers, veterinarians and the public on how they can protect their flocks," Scholz said, emphasizing the importance of keeping poultry separated from wild birds and increasing biosecurity.

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### Anne Marie Moss,

age 52, of Salem, Oregon, died of metastatic breast cancer on April 22, 2022. She was at her home when she died, surrounded by her family who adored her. She was pain free and at peace.

She was born February 1, 1970, in Muncie, Indiana, the daughter of James Hamm and Dianne (Doke) Moss.

Anne Marie spent her entire childhood in DeKalb, Illinois. She was a graduate of DeKalb High School class of 1988 and graduated from Indiana University in 1992, with a double major in journalism and Spanish and a minor in art history. Anne Marie earned a Masters degree at the University of Texas with a major in international communications. Between these degrees, she served as a VISTA volunteer in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There she worked with impoverished families, tutored, acquired computers for a local community center and organized a mural project.

Following her graduation from the University of Texas, Anne Marie worked for magazines in London, Chicago, New Orleans, Portland and Salem Oregon where she held a variety of jobs in writing, photography and editing. Her favorite, and most long lasting job, was with the Oregon Farm Bureau. She served as their Communications Director for over eighteen years. While there, Anne Marie won numerous national awards for her writing, photography, publications and social media. As an editor, one colleague reported, "She could take 100 of someone else's good words and turn them into 20 great words."

Anne Marie loved travel and adventure. She was a lifelong learner. Her curiosity about different cultures inspired her to live in England, Costa Rica, Spain and Mexico.

She also visited many other countries around the world. She admired and collected art, loved music and attended many concerts. Anne Marie enjoyed a great cup of coffee and some quality chocolates. She was a disciplined athlete and a graceful dancer. She participated in half and full marathons, triathlons, and many races of varying distances. On two occasions, she participated in Oregon's famous Hood to Coast team race. Anne Marie climbed mountains, biked, hiked and camped. She could build a fire from scratch within minutes. She loved being outside and enjoyed the beauties of nature. Flowers, trees, oceans and mountains all spoke to her soul.

Anne Marie was a person of exceptional kindness and generosity. She always put others before herself. She was modest and uncomplaining (even when beset by extraordinary emotional or physical pain). Anne Marie had a fabulous sense of humor and was known for her hysterical one liners and puns. She was a doting daughter, sister, aunt and caring friend. She will always be remembered for her gorgeous smile.

She is survived by her parents, Jim and Dianne Moss; her sisters, Sarah Robinson (fiancé Terry Briggs), Jenny Boisselle (Kris) and Amy Keck (Jason); nieces and nephews, Logan, Drew, Jessica, Pierson and Campbell; and a long list of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Anne Marie was predeceased by her grandparents, Mary Rose and Ernest Doke and Mildred and E. Herbert Moss and several other aunts, uncles and cousins.

The world has lost a beautiful soul who was cherished by many.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. Wednesday, June 8, 2022, at Wooden Shoe Tulip Farm, 33814 South Meridian Road, Woodburn, Oregon. Colorful clothes are encouraged.

Donations can be made, in memory of Anne Marie, to the Anne Marie Moss Scholarship started by Oregon Farm Bureau. Make checks to the Oregon Agricultural Education Foundation and note, on the check, the money is for the Anne Marie Moss Scholarship. Mail to OAEF, 1320 Capital Street N.E., Suite 200, Salem, Oregon 97301 or METAVIVOR, a 501c3 nonprofit that focuses 100% on metastatic breast cancer research <https://donate.metavivor.org/give/318818/#1/donation/checkout>.

Condolences to the Moss family may be mailed to, 227 West Royal Drive, DeKalb, Illinois 60115.

The family wishes to thank Dave Dillon, Barb Iverson, Bethann Lyons and Dr. John Strother.



### IN MEMORIAM

#### Ben Graham, farmer and lawyer

Ben Graham was born to Ralph Bennie & Marie Graham in Corvallis, Ore. Ben loved growing up on the farm and participating in 4-H with his chickens.

Ben was mentored by Sen. Wayne Morse who he met when he was in high school. Ben attended Oregon State University where he was employed on campus and American University where he worked for Senator Wayne Morse and as a Capitol Police Officer in Washington D.C. Ben returned to Oregon and attended Law School at Willamette University College of Law while teaching speech classes.

Ben worked in the general practice of law for eight years in Dallas, Ore. Ben was President of the Board of Mentally Handicapped Adults and was a member of the Eagles and Elks.

Ben moved to Las Vegas to prosecute crime in the Clark County District Attorney's Office and became a Chief Deputy District Attorney and the lobbyist for the District Attorney's Association where he helped pass new laws for over 30 years. After this satisfying career,

Ben proudly worked as an attorney/lobbyist for the Nevada Supreme Court for 14 years.

He married Elana Turner, who was the love of his life for 43 years. They had four children and 10 grandchildren.

Ben, with Coe Swobe, Esq., and Justice Michael Cherry, founded the Lawyers Concerned for Lawyers (LCL) program of the State Bar of Nevada (SBN); this program assists lawyers with drug and/or alcohol problems. Ben received several awards from the SBN for over 30 years of volunteer work with LCL.

Ben loved his family and God, his fellow man, and his farm in Oregon. He was immensely kind and helped people from all walks of life; Ben trained many, newer lawyers and lobbyists. He was a member of Christ Church Episcopal where he volunteered at Lobster Fair, etc.

To his children and their spouses, Ben was their hero, closest confidant, and constant source of support and unending love. His warm smile and embrace always brought comfort to any seemingly troubling situation. He was always available to his children, whatever their needs and became a capable and loving grandfather, developing a special and unique relationship with each of his grandchildren.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to Ben's daughter's memorial 501(c)(3) foundation. Please make checks to Caroline Graham Lambert's Loving Life Foundation and mail to Elana Graham, 7121 Doe Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89117. This foundation pays for scholarships for UNR medical students, intern projects at Stanford Medical School, and summer camp for juvenile cancer patients.