

# USDA approves Oregon for state meat inspection program

By **SIERRA DAWN McCLAIN**  
Capital Press

USDA on July 28 approved a regulatory plan that allows Oregon to revive its state meat inspection program.

The goal is to expand opportunities for small-scale processors who can't sell commercially because the meat they process is not federally inspected. Oregon has just 13 USDA-inspected facilities statewide; the new program will allow the state to also do inspections, though state-inspected meat can only be sold within Oregon.

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service has finalized a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Department of Agriculture, giving ODA authority to inspect meat produced for

shipment within the state.

Lauren Henderson, ODA's deputy director, has been talking for decades about re-establishing the state inspection program to increase Oregon's slaughter and processing capacity. ODA's previous state inspection program ended in 1971 due to budget cuts.

When the pandemic hit and producers struggled to move meat due to a shortage of inspection services, officials started talking more seriously about re-instituting state inspections.

In 2020, Oregon legislators passed a bill approving the state meat inspection program, and later approved \$2 million in grants to help processors get started. Thursday's approval from USDA was the final puzzle piece needed.

"I am so proud of our



**Carcasses at a meat plant.**

Sierra Dawn McClain/Capital Press

state, our partners and the many ODA staff that helped make Oregon's State Meat Inspection Program a reality," ODA director Alexis Taylor said in a statement.

USDA's deputy undersecretary Sandra Eskin said she anticipates the program will strengthen the food system and help prevent supply chain bottlenecks.

chalked up to be.

At the Oregon Cattlemen's Association convention last November, some ranchers and meat processors expressed concern that the program may not be the best use of taxpayer dollars. Outfitting a plant to meet inspection requirements is no small feat, they said, and the \$2 million is just a drop in the bucket.

Henderson, of ODA, told cattlemen at the event that he fully anticipates going back before the Legislature in the future to secure more funding for the program long-term.

To meet the new state standards, processors will have to meet requirements "at least equal to those imposed under the Federal Meat Inspection Act," according to USDA.

Some experts say that if a

processor is going to shoulder the effort and expense to meet federal standards anyway — including installing fully washable walls, temperature controls and wastewater disposal systems — why wouldn't it just become a USDA-inspected plant that can sell meat nationally rather than a state-inspected plant that can only sell within Oregon?

If a place is going to go through the trouble of coming under inspection, most of them will just go USDA-inspected, or they already are USDA-inspected, said Rebecca Thistlethwaite, director of Oregon State University's Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network.

Thistlethwaite said she doesn't expect many processors to utilize the state program.

## Potato crop catching up after cold start

By **BRAD CARLSON**  
Capital Press

Idaho's potato crop has caught up well after wet, cold weather during planting and emergence seasons delayed its start.

Declo-area grower Mark Darrington liked what he saw during recent test digs: tubers, in contrast to the "big crop of vines" of one variety that produced poorly in last year's drought and early, prolonged high heat.

In the south-central region, "compared to last year, this crop looks fabulous," he said. "As compared to a five-year average, it is a good, solid, average crop."

"It was slow on emergence, but once it emerged, it performed well," Darrington said.

Nearby to the south and west, Randy Hardy said the crop had been 10-14 days behind before the recent momentum gain in mostly warm, clear conditions.

"We're not seeing the tuber development we normally would this time of year, but it's close," said Hardy, who produces south of Burley. "The (tuber) set looks really good and the canopy looks really good."

He said July 27 that the region so far hasn't seen wildfire smoke, which hindered the '21 crop substantially. Smoke interferes with photosynthesis and can keep nighttime temperatures higher than is ideal for the plants.

Hardy said daytime and nighttime temperatures have been good recently, and "if things stay together and it doesn't get excessively hot, I think we've got a pretty nice crop coming."

Planted acres in the state are about 290,000, down 8% from 315,000 a year earlier, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service reported June 30. Many growers shifted to crops that use less water and other inputs.

Angie Rader, a partner in Wilder-based Doug Gross Farms, said many growers in the southwest region planned for below-average supplies of irrigation water but now have enough thanks to the wet spring.

"Growth got a little behind because of the moisture, but we're happy to have the moisture," she said.

Rader said the farm's crop at one point was about three weeks behind average progress to date but recently lags by just a week or so.



Idaho Farm Bureau Federation

**Idaho produces about one-third of U.S. potatoes.**

"We plan to give the crop around an extra week or so to mature as long as the plants continue to look good as we get close to that date," she said.

East-region grower Bryan Searle of Shelley said many tubers are smaller than usual now but potatoes are benefiting from good conditions.

The next four to five weeks will be critical, he said.

"Currently, the crop looks pretty good," Joe Esta, vice president at Wada Farms in Idaho Falls, said July 26. The business likes to see rows in the region close by July 4, "and they were trailing that a little bit."

The company in recent test digs found some larger potatoes, though "not as many as we'd like to see," he said.

Esta said smoke and long stretches with daytime temperatures above 95 degrees can stunt growth, but those conditions have not occurred.

Darrington said he recently found good test weight and yield in fall-planted barley, traditionally a sign processing potatoes will show good specific gravity. A high measurement — heavy on solids and light on water — lets processors get more usable material from each potato and fry it best.

"If we can finish out, it's going to be a really great crop," he said.



Spokane County Fire District 2

**A tractor and baler were total losses following a fire July 29 near Latah, Wash., said Devin Billington, deputy fire chief for Spokane County Fire District 2.**

## Tractors total losses in two separate fires in Washington and Idaho

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

Two tractors, a combine and a baler were total losses in separate fires in Washington and Idaho on July 29, fire district spokesmen say.

Fire crews responded to a fire at 6:24 p.m. east of Latah, Wash.

"When we got there, it was about a 50-foot by 50-foot timothy grass fire," said Devin Billington, deputy chief of Spokane County Fire District 2. "We were able to contain it to that size. There was a farmer there who helped with plowing the field to dirt to contain it there."

A John Deere tractor and baler were total losses, Billington said.

"There's a lot of moving parts on those machines, on the balers," Billington said. "It was low-100 degree weather at the time of the call, with moderately high wind speeds, so kind of a recipe for fire."

Eleven trucks and 19 per-

sonnel responded to the call, Billington said.

The fire was extinguished by 7:55 p.m., so crews moved to managing hotspots. By 10:38 p.m., everything was extinguished and cooled down.

The cause of the fire is undetermined, Billington said. The insurance company is working with the farmer. Damage to the crop and land was not significant.

In Idaho, firefighters from the Worley Fire Department joined other departments in responding to a fire off Highway 95 about 17 miles south of Coeur d'Alene.

Scott Campos, the Worley Fire Department chief, said the fire occurred at roughly 6 p.m.

"They arrived on scene and found several hay bales on fire that was spread across an area approximately an eighth to a quarter of a mile," Campos told the Capital Press.

Once they knew the combine was on fire, the operators of the tractor and com-

bine drove to a clearing in hopes of avoiding burning windrows, Campos said.

"Unfortunately, he dropped some fire along the way that did get some bales involved," Campos said.

"There was a skid-steer on scene, so I would have recommended cutting a line around that and letting it burn in one place, rather than taking it across the field," he said. "It's a judgment call, for sure."

Both pieces of machinery appear to be totaled, Campos said. He speculated that the operator sacrificed them to get them to the clearing. There was some damage to the land, but "not much," he said.

The fire is being investigated by the Idaho Department of Lands, which will determine the value of the damage, Campos said.

No further information was available from the department.

There were no injuries at either incident, Billington and Campos said.

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Notice is hereby given that the following vehicle will be sold, for cash to the highest bidder, on 08/08/2022. The sale will be held at 10:00am by

COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2018 HONDA CIV 4D  
VIN = SHHFK7G42JU239055  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ZACHARY RYAN TAVARES  
UNITUS COMMUNITY C.U

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2019 HONDA ACC 4D  
VIN = 1HGCV1F55KA091613  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
PEDRO SORIANO SANCHEZ

### LEGAL

#### NOTICE OF RYEGRASS COMMISSION ASSESSMENT CHANGE HEARING

TO: ALL OREGON RYEGRASS GROWERS  
Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held pursuant to ORS 576.416 (5), on Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Cascade Grill Restaurant, 110 Opal St. NE, Albany, Oregon, upon a proposal to increase the assessment due the Commission on Oregon-grown Perennial Ryegrass seed from 15¢/cwt to three and one-half tenths of one percent (0.35%) of the purchase price per pound, clean seed basis, from the price paid to the producer thereof, to take effect beginning January 1, 2023. Annual Ryegrass seed will remain at 15¢/cwt. At this hearing any producer of Oregon-grown Perennial Ryegrass seed has a right to be heard with respect to the proposed assessment increase. For further information, contact the Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission business office, P.O. Box 3366, Salem, Oregon 97302, telephone 503-364-2944. The meeting location is accessible to persons with disabilities. Please make any request for an interpreter for the hearing impaired or for other accommodations for persons with disabilities at least 48 hours before the meeting by contacting the Commission office at 503-364-2944.

## One Japanese beetle found in Richland, Wash.

By **DON JENKINS**  
Capital Press

A single Japanese beetle trapped in Richland, Wash., has heightened concerns within the state Department of Agriculture that the invasive pest is spreading in south-central Washington.

An agriculture department employee was surprised to find the beetle Thursday during a routine check of a pest trap, according to the department.

The beetle was more than 35 miles east of an infestation in Grandview. Earlier in the week, the department confirmed that a gardener had found three beetles in Wapato, 30 miles west of Grandview.

"Finding two detections so

far from the original grid in two separate directions suggests the Japanese beetle population is spreading very quickly," Camilo Acosta, Japanese beetle eradication project coordinator, said in a statement.

"The longer the invasive pest continues to thrive here, the more difficult and expensive it will be to control," Acosta said.

Japanese beetles, *Popil-*

*lia japonica Newman*, forage on more than 300 types of plants, including high-value crops such as hops and grapes, which are grown in south-central Washington.

Beetles have now been found in a 65-mile corridor along Interstate 82. The department has set out more traps and checked area nurseries in response.

The department asked

growers and residents to watch for and report beetles, especially in Yakima, Benton and Franklin counties.

Japanese beetle adults are metallic green and brown and have tufts of white hair on their sides. The agriculture department began what it expects will be a multi-year eradication campaign last spring by applying pesticides to lawns in a 49-square mile area in and around Grandview.

### LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) announces a meeting of the Washington State Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) on Thursday, August 18, 2022 from 9:30 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. This meeting will be held by virtual only. No face to face option will be available. For more information, contact Nick Vira at 360-704-7758.

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2015 MERZ C300 4D  
VIN = 55SWF4J7FU090367  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
MILAGROS ELAIDE BARRIOS ALPIZAR  
GATEWAY INSURANCE CO

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2015 TOYT CAM 4D  
VIN = 4T1BF1FK9FU954779  
Amount due on lien \$1415.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
RUBEN ESCOTT VILLA  
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2010 TOYT TAC PU  
VIN = 5TETX4CN4AZ712472  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
GENE E SAMPSON  
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2016 TOYT HIG LL  
VIN = 5TDDKRFH1G5342805  
Amount due on lien \$1415.00  
Reputed owner(s) SAMIM NOORI & MOHAMMAD A MAULIKZADA  
TOYOTA MOTOR CREDIT CORP

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2015 MAZD 3 4D  
VIN = 3MZBM1L71FM225686  
Amount due on lien \$1515.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
TAYLOR VIRTUE

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
2007 CHEV TIL ST  
VIN = 4KBC4B1UXJ803101  
Amount due on lien \$1435.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
NORTHWEST LANDSCAPE SERVICES  
BANNER BANK

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COPART OF WASHINGTON INC  
2885 NATIONAL WAY WOODBURN, OR  
1999 HONDA ACC 4DR  
VIN = JHMC65649XC031044  
Amount due on lien \$1535.00  
Reputed owner(s)  
ROBERT HENRY CLARK