

Business / Agriculture

Education official visits Baker High School

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On January 4, Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Salam Noor visited the Baker High School for feedback on Oregon's State Plan under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Students, faculty members, teachers, members of the school board, and community members were invited to the forum.

Noor, accompanied by South Baker Intermediate Principal Nanette Lehman, presented to those attending what ESSA is and how it impacts schools and students. ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB) and gives states more flexibility in providing a well-rounded education to all students.

Noor explained that ESSA is a federal loan and requires a submitted plan of what education leaders are going to do to apply for the loan, but they approached it differently than they did with NCLB.

"We basically have an opportunity to re think the way we do assessment, the way we do accountability, the way we do school improvement and educator effectiveness," said Noor. "So we started this conversation back in April and we said, 'Let's reimagine education in the state of Oregon.' We then invite communities to come talk to us about the federal law and federal plan. We're going to submit one nonetheless but we want to make sure that that plan truly represents our values, what we consider to be most important."

Noor explained through a presentation that they learned five main things students, teachers, board members, and community members want.

Noor explained that they loved hearing the students' point of view and hearing from them kept Noor and his team on track.



Samantha O'Conner / The Baker County Press

Deputy Superintendent of Public Instruction Salam Noor visited the Baker High School.

The five main things they learned were making sure education opportunities offered to students are rigorous, relevant, well rounded and engaging. They want it to be personalized and individualized learning.

Equity was a large part of the conversations. Noor explained that students who are English learners, Native American, students living in poverty, disabled students, and others will be served under this law.

Noor said that they want establishing the conditions necessary for educators to provide effective and culturally responsive services to students, families, and communities.

The last is to measure student and school success in multiple ways, such as academic, social, emotional learning, and preparing students for their next steps.

Noor talked about what the law means for students. It means that students will have English, reading, language, arts, and writing classes. They will also have science, technology, engineering, math, computer science, foreign

languages, music, government economics, history, geography, and other courses.

Noor also said what it means for teachers. It makes students' state test scores an optional part of teacher evaluations and provides additional recourses to support ongoing, meaningful, culturally responsive professional learning.

"We're proposing that a single rating is not the most effective way to tell the community about the quality of the school or the success of that school," explained Noor. "We're proposing to move away from a single rating system to what's called Dashboard. A Dashboard gives you a lot more information, more meaningful information, and gives you a more comprehensive picture of what's actually happening in that school. So, the flexibility that we've been given is to not use a single rating but to use a different system to give the community what's happening in that school."

Noor said that the law requires the district to

consult with parents and the communities. Noor explained that he found it to be a positive feature because it promotes communication with the community.

Noor then asked for those attending to speak in small groups and to ask questions for him to answer while he was there.

Noor said they are working on their initial plan and between January and April they will be finalizing the state plan and will continue their community forums.

The State Board of Education will have a work session on the 25 of January regarding the state plan.

The Governor will also be involved with the conversations and their goal is to continue to vet the recommendations and get down to specific details as much as they can to submit their plan to the US Department of Education by April 3.

After finishing his presentation, he then asked the attendants to write their feedback on provided papers he collected to review for the plan.

Drought disaster benefits available

Producers in Baker County are eligible to apply for 2016 Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) benefits on native and improved pastures due to drought.

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers who suffer grazing losses for covered

livestock due to drought on privately owned or cash leased land or fire on federally managed land. County committees can only accept LFP applications after notification is received by the National Office of qualifying drought or if a federal agency prohibits produc-

ers from grazing normal permitted livestock on federally managed lands due to qualifying fire.

Notification of drought has officially been received for Wallowa County. Eligible livestock producers must complete an application (CCC-853) and the required support-

ing documentation no later than January 30, 2017 for 2016 losses.

For additional information about LFP and to set up an appointment to participate in the 2016 program, contact the Baker-Grant County FSA office at 541-523-7121 x 2.

BLM issues timber payments in western Oregon counties

The BLM announced the distribution of over \$19 million to 18 counties in western Oregon. These payments follow a formula established in the 1937 Oregon and California (O&C) Lands Act and the Coos Bay Wagon Road (CBWR) Act, both of which authorize timber receipt-based payments to western Oregon counties, and both of which remain in effect following the expiration of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination

Act.

Payments made through the authority of the O&C Lands Act and CBWR Act are essential to O&C counties and help offset county timber and tax revenue not generated by Federally-managed forests.

The counties use these funds for county services such as law enforcement, road maintenance, health services, schools, libraries, and other county services.

The O&C Lands Act provides that 50 percent of receipts from the sale

of timber on O&C lands are distributed among the 18 O&C counties including Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill counties.

Coos and Douglas counties have Coos Bay Wagon Road and O&C lands within their boundaries, so payments to those counties are covered by both the 1937 and 1939 statutes.

The Oregon and California Railroad Revested Lands, known as the O&C Lands, lie in a checkerboard pattern through eighteen counties in western Oregon.

These lands contain more than 2.4 million acres of forests with a diversity of plant and animal species, recreation areas, mining claims, grazing lands, cultural and historical resources, scenic areas, wild and scenic rivers, and wilderness.

— WEEKLY HAY REPORT — Friday, December 23, 2016 — Eastern Oregon (No new report due to holidays.)

Prices trended generally steady in a limited test compared to week ago prices. Most demand lays with the retail/stable hay. According to some producers, horse owners prefer lower sugar, higher protein hay. The recent snows slowed movement as trucks couldn't get to the farms to get loaded.

Tons	Price Range	Wtd Avg
Alfalfa — Large Square Good/Premium	30 140.00-140.00	140.00
Alfalfa / Orchard Mix — Small Square Premium	15 165.00-165.00	165.00
Timothy Grass — Large Square Fair	35 100.00-100.00	100.00

USDA Market News Service—AMS.USDA.gov

— CATTLE MARKET REPORT — Wednesday, January 4, 2017 Vale, Oregon

Cattle sold through the auction: 305

Steer Calves		
300-400#	Bulk N/A Top	N/A
400-500#	Bulk N/A Top	N/A
500-600#	Bulk 126.00 - 142.00	Top 144.50

Heifer Calves		
300-400#	Bulk N/A Top	N/A
400-500#	Bulk 122.00 - 133.00	Top 135.00
500-600#	Bulk 117.00 - 129.00	Top 130.00

Yearling Steers		
600-700#	Bulk 118.00 - 125.00	Top 126.00
700-800#	Bulk 107.00 - 116.00	Top 117.00
800-900#	Bulk 104.00 - 111.00	Top 112.00
900-1,000#	Bulk 97.00 - 106.00	Top 108.00

Yearling Heifers		
600-700#	Bulk 109.00 - 121.00	Top 122.00
700-800#	Bulk 102.00 - 106.00	Top 107.50
800-900#	Bulk N/A Top	N/A
900-1,000#	Bulk N/A Top	N/A

Thin Shelly Cows	35.00 - 49.00
Butcher Cows	51.00 - 58.00
Butcher Bulls	51.00 - 61.00
Pairs Young	N/A
Hfretts.	64.00 - 79.00
Stock Cows Young	- 865.00 - 1175.00
ProducersLivestock.com	
541-473-3136	

— LOG PRICE REPORT —

Prices are based on the majority of saw mills in Northeastern Oregon and Central Idaho. The prices listed below are a composite prices of various sawmills willing to visit with me about this topic.

Ponderosa Pine—small diameter class 8-11 inches diameter class \$250 per mbf. Only one sawmill was willing to buy small diameter pine at this time.

Ponderosa Pine—medium diameter class 12-17 inches diameter class \$300 to \$350 per mbf

Ponderosa Pine-large diameter class 18 plus inches diameter class \$380 to \$410 per mbf

The Pine prices are still approximately \$40 per mbf below average lumber/log market due to 2017 fire salvage

Doug Fir & Western Larch—\$380 to \$420 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$425 to \$475 per mbf.

White Fir-\$300 per mbf. Normal prices typically ranged between \$340 to \$360 per mbf.

Engelmann Spruce—\$350 at one Idaho sawmill, other sawmills including with White fir prices.

In general, the log prices still impacted from 2015 fire season and fire salvage that resulted. Sawmills are starting to get log yard inventory in line with sawmill production needs. With a new Administration as of 1/20/2017, a more normal economic environment should result and hopefully a more healthy housing situation will result in a better climate for Northeast Oregon Sawmill and private forest landowners.

Courtesy of Arvid Andersen, Andersen Forestry Consulting

— PRECIOUS METALS REPORT —

Price per ounce, USD
Gold: \$1,191.40
Silver: \$16.76
Platinum: \$972.95
Palladium: \$754.72
<i>Bloomberg.com</i>

— AG COMMODITIES —

Corn: \$357.25/bu/USD
Wheat: \$418.75/bu/USD
Soybeans: \$1,011.50/bu/USD
Oats: \$231.75 bu/USD
Rough Rice: \$9.61/cwt/USD
Canola: \$498.10 CAD/mwt
Live Cattle: \$119.13/lb./USD
Feeder Cattle: \$129.63/lb./USD
Lean Hogs: \$65.60/lb./USD
<i>Bloomberg.com</i>