

Big crop seen for surplus plagued cranberry growers

Wisconsin drives 2016 harvest outlook

By **DON JENKINS**
Capital Press

Cranberry farmers, already struggling with a large inventory and low prices, will produce slightly more cranberries this year than in 2015, the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicted.

Growers in Wisconsin, by far the top cranberry-producing state, reported isolated hail damage, but still expect a better-than-average crop because of mostly favorable weather, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Meanwhile, Oregon and Washington state growers are expected to come close to last year's strong crops.

Overall, USDA forecasts that growers in the five states with commercial cranberry farms will harvest 8.59 million barrels, up from 8.56 million barrels in 2015. Each barrel equals 100 pounds of cranberries.

Bumper crops in recent years, including a record 8.95 million barrels in 2013, have led to a cranberry surplus that has hovered around 90 percent of yearly global demand. Average prices rebounded slightly last year to \$31.60 a



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

A bee pollinates cranberry bogs in May on the Long Beach Peninsula in southwestern Washington.

barrel from \$30.90 in 2014, but remain below historic levels.

Oregon growers last year produced a record 562,000 barrels. The USDA forecasts a coming harvest of 530,000 barrels, which would be the state's second-largest cranberry crop ever.

Washington produced 198,000 barrels, just falling short of a record yield set in 1994. The USDA forecasts a 2016 harvest of 194,000 barrels.

The USDA predicted harvests will fall in Massachusetts and New Jersey.

Cranberry growing regions

in those states are in drought or abnormally dry conditions, the USDA noted.

As usual, Wisconsin largely will dictate the size of the U.S. crop.

The USDA forecasts the Badger State's cranberry harvest will be 5.2 million barrels, up from 4.85 million the year before. To help ease the surplus, the USDA in June agreed to purchase \$27.5 million worth of cranberry concentrate for school lunches and food banks. The purchase was the equivalent of 300,000 barrels, or 30 million pounds, of cranberries.

Oregon grower delivers first cranberries of the year

An unusually warm growing season in 2015

By **ERIC MORTENSON**
Capital Press

For the second year in a row, grower Charlie Ruddell of Bandon is claiming the earliest delivery of cranberries in North America.

Ruddell planned to deliver the first of 2016's harvest to the Ocean Spray co-op receiving station on the Oregon Coast. The delivery was eight days earlier than 2015, which itself was about two weeks earlier than normal.

Ocean Spray spokeswoman Kellyanne Dignan confirmed Ruddell is the co-op's first delivery and said she is confident he's the earliest in North America as well.

"Mother Nature's the boss" on harvest timing, she said.

An unusually warm growing season in 2015 made many crops ready for harvest earlier than normal. Ruddell, of Randolph Cranberries Inc., said other factors are at play this year.

The variety he's growing, Demoranville, blooms earlier and matures faster than other commercial varieties, Ruddell said.

Secondly, Ocean Spray



Courtesy of Randolph Cranberries Inc.

A bog of cranberries, flooded and with the berries floating free, stands ready for harvest in August near Bandon. Grower Charlie Ruddell said the harvest came in about eight days earlier than 2015. He said the cranberry variety and incentives offered by Ocean Spray are factors in the early harvest.

is paying growers a bonus of \$2.50 per 100-pound barrel for cranberries that are lighter color than in years past. Another \$2 per barrel bonus is available for cranberries delivered by Sept. 19. If a cranberry bog produces 250 barrels, that amounts to a \$1,125 bonus.

"It sets well with me," Ruddell said.

Dignan, the Ocean Spray spokeswoman, said the co-op's desired color standard has changed over time. Cranberries traditionally were made into juice or sauce, which requires a darker berry. But now most cranberries are dried and sweetened to make "craisins," and a lighter-colored,

earlier berry is preferable, she said.

Wisconsin and Massachusetts rank first and second in U.S. cranberry production. New Jersey is third, and Oregon and Washington state are fourth and fifth. The U.S. usually produces between 8 million and 9 million barrels annually. The Oregon crop is valued at about \$12 million per year.

Dignan said Ocean Spray will release updated 2016 crop projections soon. Ruddell said his 2015 crop was down 5 or 6 percent from 2014, but might bounce back this year. "My intuition is that we will have a pretty strong year," he said.

Oregon judge sides with state in records dispute with Oracle

Associated Press

SALEM — An Oregon judge has indicated that she will throw out a software company's claims that the state violated its public records law by not immediately releasing certain emails.

The Oregonian/Oregon Live reported that Judge Mary

Merten James wrote Wednesday that Oracle is in the wrong in the public records case. Gov. Kate Brown spokeswoman Kristen Grainger called the decision a "double win" that vindicated Brown and reflected poorly on the company.

Oregon sued Oracle in 2014, saying the company defrauded the state by bill-

ing \$240 million for a Cover Oregon health insurance website that didn't work. That trial begins in January.

Oracle maintains that the website worked but the former governor chose not to use for political reasons. The company filed its own litigation, including the public records dispute.

ATTENTION

SW WASHINGTON PAPER MILL WORKERS

HAVE YOU BEEN EXPOSED?

Mesothelioma? Lung Cancer? Laryngeal Cancer?

Our successful team of local and national lawyers with a combined 40 years of experience in Asbestos and other workplace injuries can help you understand your rights and choices. If you or a family member worked in the paper mills, call us.

Contact us today.

Jeffrey S. Mutnick, Licensed in Oregon | Devin Robinson, Licensed in Oregon/Washington

1.800.714.2949

SATURDAY
AUGUST
27

Astoria Fire Open House

555 30TH STREET 11-4PM

Food, Fun, Firefighters!

- ★ Free hot dogs, chips, coffee and soda compliments of the members of the IAFF Local 696
- ★ Fire safety and tsunami/disaster information available
- ★ All AFD Apparatus will be on display
- ★ SPARKY and SMOKEY will be on hand!
- ★ Jr. Firefighter Challenge Course

Like us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/astoria696

Clatsop Post 12

Salmon Sandwich, Clam Chowder & Coleslaw

Friday August 26th
4 pm 'til gone
\$8.00

6PM "Karaoke Dave"

ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
Clatsop Post 12
1132 Exchange Street 325-5771

Clatsop Post 12

Saturday August 27th

Warrior Expeditions Trans-United States Bike Ride to arrive at Clatsop Post 12

Fundraiser Spaghetti Dinner and DJ Dave at 4PM

All proceeds go to Warrior Expeditions Trans-American Trails
A non-profit veterans organization.

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ASTORIA AMERICAN LEGION
Clatsop Post 12
1132 Exchange Street 325-5771

FAMILY OWNED & OPERATED

America's MATTRESS

New 2016 Serta icomfort on Sale!

HURRY IN FOR INCREDIBLE DEALS AND SAVINGS!

Serta icomfort

FREE BOXSPRING

OR SAVE UP TO \$800

on a Serta® Adjustable Mattress Set*

QUEEN FLAT SETS FROM \$1299

BACK RELIEF ON SALE!

36 MONTHS 0% FINANCING

Serta perfect sleeper

HOT BUY!

Queen Mattress Limit 2 Per Customer

\$299

Helps reduce tossing & turning
Encourages proper back support & alignment
Promotes a balanced sleep temperature
Minimize impact from partner movement
Resists sagging & edge roll-off

FREE Delivery* Min. \$599 Purchase

FREE Set-Up*

FREE Mattress Recycle*

BACK SUPPORTER MATTRESS SPECIALS!

Dr. Greene's SLEEP SYSTEM BY SERTA

Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon

- Luxurious Aloe Cover (Therapeutic)
- Specialized 5 Zone Support (For proper spinal alignment)
- Individually Wrapped Coils (Conforms to all body types)
- Specialized Foam for Comfort and Cooling (Improves circulation while you sleep)

Queen Flat Sets From **\$1299**

Special Upgrade
Queen only \$200 King only \$400 (raise and lower upper body)

IN-HOME 120 DAY TRIAL!

Serta sertapedic
Serta icomfort HYBRID

THE SLEEP YOU NEED GUARANTEED

Warrenton 503-861-6085
Located next to Big 5 and Fred Meyer
HOURS: M-F 10-7; SAT 10-6; SUN 11-6
www.americasmattress.com

With 5 convenient locations NEWPORT | FLORENCE | COOS BAY | LINCOLN CITY | WARRENTON