



Photos by Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

CranMac wet harvests their cranberries by flooding the fields with water. The cranberries, being more buoyant than water, float to the top and allow workers to push the berries onto conveyer belts and into trucks.

CRANBERRY HARVESTING BEGINS AT CRANMAC

By HAILEY HOFFMAN
The Astorian

Every October, dozens of farms, like CranMac in Ilwaco, harvest large crops of bright-red cranberries in Washington, the fifth-largest producer of the popular berry. Owners Malcolm and Ardell McPhail have been full-time cranberry farmers since 1985 and are part of the Ocean Spray Cooperative.



LEFT: Kim Patten stands knee-deep in the cranberry bog while pushing berries toward a conveyer belt to pull them out of the field and deposit them in a truck. RIGHT: A worker scoops excess debris from the cranberry plants out of the water and onto the bank.



Blane Saunders holds a bottle of Ocean Spray cran-mango juice during his break from harvest. Saunders has worked with McPhail Family Farms, harvesting berries for Ocean Spray, for the last 30 years.



Alison Hilson stands in one of many cranberry bogs to be harvested on the 32-acre farm.



Ardell McPhail, one of the farm owners, stands on top of a berry-filled truck while overseeing the harvest.