

PLOWING FORWARD



Hailey Hoffman/The Astorian

A Scottish Highland cow stands in the pasture at Blackberry Bog Farm.

Farms respond to lost restaurant revenue

BY ALYSSA EVANS

Local farms have been faced with new challenges in recent weeks. As many of the coast's restaurants have closed or faced reduced sales because of measures to prevent the spread

of coronavirus, farms have lost some of their biggest and most consistent vendors.

Farmers have been left to adapt, as it's unclear when restaurants will reopen, and whether farmers markets along the coast will open on time or at all this year.

Lost revenue

Forage & Farm, a local food distributor, has seen a major loss in its restaurant clients.

"We have seen nearly 100% of our restaurants stop placing orders," said owner Matt Nevitt.

Moon River Farm in Nehalem is another local producer that supplies local restaurants.

"About 30% of the farm's total revenue comes from restaurants," said co-owner Lily Strauss. "We're anticipating decreased restaurant sales for the rest of the season."

Also based in Nehalem is Nehalem River Ranch, which produces pasture-raised meat. During this time of year, about 90% of the ranch's business comes from restaurants, said owner Jared Gardner. The ranch is now faced with the challenge of what to do with its stock.

"We're all stocked up for about three to six months of restaurant business.

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