

DAIRY: More than 7,000 acres were sold to Lost Valley Ranch

Continued from 1A

and Greenwood will continue to sell wood chips to pulp and paper mills.

The Boardman Tree Farm has been around since 1990, and has become a popular attraction for visitors to the community. Residents will have one more chance to bid farewell to the tree farm during the final "Very Poplar Run," a charity 5K, 10K and 15K race that benefits the Agape House in Hermiston.

Rice said they are planning to make this year's event extra special.

"The idea is to do it up real nice for the last event," he said.

More than 7,000 acres of the tree farm also sold to Lost Valley Ranch, formerly Willow Creek Dairy, which is proposing to bring in 30,000 cows on ground east of where Homestead Lane intersects with Poleline Road. The dairy, owned by Greg te Velde, is in the process of obtaining a confined animal feeding operation, or CAFO, permit with the state. If approved, it would become the second-largest dairy in Oregon behind only nearby Threemile Canyon Farms.

The permit regulates

how Lost Valley Ranch would handle wastewater and manure generated on site to protect surface water and groundwater. A public hearing on the permit was held Thursday at the Port of Morrow in Boardman, with the majority of comments in favor of the proposal.

Wayne Downey, of Hermiston, managed the design of the facility, which he said uses the best management practices and latest technology. The design calls for open top lagoons capable of holding 260 acre-feet of liquid manure, which is then recycled and applied onto farmland for growing animal feed.

Lagoons are to be built with a synthetic liner and leak detection system to protect groundwater. The farm will conduct annual soil monitoring and quarterly sampling of monitoring wells, according to its application.

Marty Myers, general manager of Threemile Canyon Farms, also supported the proposal. For 15 years, Willow Creek Dairy has leased land from Threemile Canyon, and Myers described te Velde as a good tenant.

"Sustainable agriculture is really what we're talking

about here," Myers said. "This whole operation is really a recycling venture, where the cows are the main benefit."

Morrow County Planning Director Carla McLane presented comments on behalf of the county court, which were not necessarily in opposition of the project, but did pose some concerns. McLane said the dairy would be located within the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area as well as three different critical groundwater areas, which raises questions about water use and contamination.

"We're not unfamiliar with (land application) here in Morrow County, but we have to find a way to balance that with historical impacts of high nitrogen levels in the groundwater," McLane said.

Written public comments will be accepted through Thursday, Aug. 4 on the project. There is no timetable for a decision to issue the permit, which is done jointly by the Oregon Department of Agriculture and Department of Environmental Quality.

Contact George Plaven at gplaven@eastoregonian.com or 541-966-0825.

FIRE: Juniper Canyon a hotbed for fires

Continued from 1A

association, landowners have access to grant funds and steeply discounted firefighting equipment from other government agencies or the military.

Marvin Vetter is the rangeland fire protection coordinator with the Oregon Department of Forestry. He assists interested parties in the process of forming a rangeland association, as well as providing training and helping associations get equipment. Vetter refers to the associations as volunteer wildland fire departments. However, the associations are not trained to tackle structure fires.

Legislation passed this spring in Oregon now allows for counties to form associations under local emergency management and provide training and equipment to the association. But Vetter said the legislation only applies to counties with 200,000 plus acres of unprotected rangeland.

In addition to the 156,000 acres in Umatilla County with no protection, an area near Milton-Freewater has 106,600 acres under voluntary contracted coverage. It is not a tax-funded department or district, but a private service people in the area have to pay for to receive coverage.

It is unclear whether that area would qualify for rangeland association protection.

The Oregon State Fire Marshal's website also suggests creating fire protection through forming a domestic water supply district, county service district or a governmental industry fire brigade.

Cliff Bracher has property located within the no man's land area. A portion of Bracher Farms is protected by the Helix Rural Fire Protection District.

With the formation of Umatilla County Fire District 1, additional property owned by Bracher, including his family home, was incorporated into the district's service area.

Bracher spoke with the *East Oregonian* on his cell phone while in the middle of wheat harvest at an area of his property that still remains unprotected. He said that the threat of fire out there is "always a concern." He is, however, grateful for the new coverage he receives through the new fire district.

"We've already received services and I haven't even paid the bill yet," he said in reference to tax money he will have to pay on his property to be included in the newly formed district.

Bracher said the ideal would be to have fire stations

every few miles throughout the area, but since the land is so rural and not many people live out there, it's just not realistic. He would like to see a rural fire department outside of Pendleton. The problem is, he said, "Nobody wants to pay for it."

Funding might be the biggest hurdle in getting the area protected. As it stands now, Bracher says his first call when a fire gets out of hand is to the Forest Service office in Walla Walla because it has access to resources like planes that can drop fire retardant or the ability to send ground crews.

One area in no man's land that seems to be a hotbed for wildland fires is the Juniper Canyon area east of Hat Rock near the Washington border. A fire will start by Highway 730 and quickly build into a large blaze.

Pendleton Fire Chief Mike Ciraulo said his department responds to areas without coverage as requested.

"Our priority is fires that threaten our protection area, however we have made a conscious decision to respond as requested irrespective of threat," Ciraulo said in an email.

No man's land is not a new issue, according to Stanton. "This unprotected land, no man's land, has been a problem a long time."

WHEAT: Glyphosate-resistant wheat found in Eastern Oregon field in 2013

Continued from 1A

is unlikely the wheat presents any safety concerns if present in the food supply as a result of this incident," APHIS stated.

The USDA Foreign Agriculture Service and U.S. Wheat Associates are providing analysis and testing capabilities to overseas markets so they can test wheat entering their countries to ensure there's no presence of GE wheat, said Glen Squires, CEO of the Washington Grain Commission.

Some overseas buyers ban genetically engineered commodities.

"We're hoping it won't cause disruption," Squires said. "It may, a little bit, until they get comfortable with the tests."

Others in the grain industry also don't foresee much market disruption.

"Our customers and buyers were contacted immediately when there was a finding," said Michelle Hennings, executive director of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers. "Going to that extent and being proactive with our buyers and customers will be a positive instead of a negative."

"The evidence they've presented to us is sufficient, we feel, that this has not affected commercial wheat supplies," said Steve Mercer, vice president of communications for U.S. Wheat Associates. "We are very confident that nothing has changed the U.S. wheat supply chain's ability to deliver wheat that matches customer specifications."

Japan and South Korea may be "temporarily cautious" about new imports of some U.S. wheat, as they were during a previous case in 2013, Mercer said.

In the spring of 2013, a farmer in Eastern Oregon found glyphosate-resistant wheat plants in one of his fields. An APHIS investigation was unable to pinpoint the source of the wheat.

Mercer said USDA could provide the tests to overseas markets as soon as next week. Monsanto developed the test to identify the wheat in commercial grain shipments, and USDA has validated the test and its sensitivity.

Squires said he does not know who the farmer is.

"I can't speculate anything on how it happened, where it came from," he said.

"We're not surprised by this at all," said Amy van Saun, an attorney for the Center for Food Safety in Portland. The center is a nonprofit public interest and environmental advocacy organization. "Contamination by GE crops and GE organisms generally is inevitable. It keeps happening over and over again."

This is the third discovery of genetically engineered wheat in the U.S. Besides the 2013 discovery in Eastern Oregon, in September of 2014 a different variety of

glyphosate-resistant wheat was found on a Huntley, Mont., research plot, where genetically engineered wheat had been legally tested 11 years before.

No genetically engineered wheat is commercially available.

Van Saun said the center wants to see better regulations for field trials and to protect farmers who grow non-GE crops.

"These field trials were taking place back in the late 1990s-early 2000s, so why is this still happening now?" she asked.

APHIS says it has taken measures to ensure no GE wheat moves into commerce.

"Out of an abundance of caution," the agency is testing the farmer's full wheat harvest for the presence of any GE material, according to the notice. The farmer's harvest is finished and will be held while USDA completes testing of the grain.

So far, all samples have tested negative for any GE material. If any wheat tests positive for GE material, the farmer's crop will not be allowed into commerce.

There are no GE wheat varieties for sale or in commercial production in the United States.

Dan Steiner, grains merchant for Morrow County Grain Growers in Boardman, Ore., said the basis, the difference between wheat cash prices and futures prices on the Chicago Board of Trade, dropped July 29 about 15 cents per bushel, primarily out of caution.

Steiner believes the marketplace is waiting to see how the investigation unfolds and customers respond.

"Because we had the event earlier, they're better prepared," he said. "They're going to have systems in place to inspect and check. It didn't have the shock impact it had a few years ago."

Grain import officials in Japan and South Korea have tested for the "GE event" identified in 2013 in virtually every load of U.S. wheat delivered to those countries since August 2013, U.S. Wheat and the National Association of Wheat Growers said in a joint statement.

No GE wheat has been identified in more than 350 million bushels of wheat exported to Japan alone, the organizations said.

Researchers at Washington State University have conducted routine phenotype screening for glyphosate tolerance in wheat since 2013. Varieties included in WSU's trials represent more than 95 percent of the wheat planted in Washington and much of the acreage planted in Idaho and Oregon, according to the U.S. Wheat and NAWG statement.

"Screening to date has revealed no glyphosate-tolerant wheat plants in these trials," the statement said.

U.S. Wheat's Steve Mercer praised USDA's handling of the situation.

Paid Advertisement

Rogers Toyota Of Hermiston

1550 N. First St., Hermiston, OR 97838

HUGE INDEPENDENCE DAY SALE

June 30th - July 31st, 2016

RESIDENTS OF HERMISTON, OREGON AND SURROUNDING AREAS,

I would like to invite you to our **HUGE INDEPENDENCE DAY SALE**. We are overstocked on New Toyota Inventory in all of our most popular models and we want to sell them NOW! Today through the 31st of July all of our new, in stock 2016 Toyotas will be priced at our **LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICE**. We have the largest rebates we have seen from Toyota all year, coupled with the lowest interest rates, and our biggest discounts – **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS OUT ON THIS SALE**.

All of our inventory, whether it's NEW, CERTIFIED or PRE-OWNED, will be clearly marked down. We have over 100 new Toyotas and over 100 quality pre-owned vehicles for you to choose from, so I'm more than confident we can find you the vehicle you desire.

- **PAYMENTS AS LOW AS \$99/MO ON NEW TOYOTA MODELS¹**
- **REBATES UP TO \$2,500²**
- **0% FINANCING UP TO 72 MONTHS ON NEW 2016 CAMRYS³**
- **0% FINANCING UP TO 60 MONTHS ON 7 DIFFERENT NEW 2016 TOYOTA MODELS⁴**
- **USED VEHICLES STARTING AT \$3,495⁵**
- **2 YEARS OR 25,000 MILES OF NO COST MAINTENANCE AND 2 YEARS OF ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE ON ALL NEW TOYOTAS**
- **OUR LOWEST PRICES AND MOST AGGRESSIVE TRADE IN VALUES**

Sincerely,

Glenn Silaski

¹STK# 33442. 2016 Toyota Corolla S. Was \$21,125. Now \$18,974 after \$1,151 Rogers discount and \$1,000 rebate provided by Toyota Financial Services. 2yr/12k miles a year lease. \$2,949 down = \$99/mo plus tax, title and documentation fee. ²\$2,500 rebate provided by Toyota Financial Services. REBATES VARY PER MODEL. SEE DEALER FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS. ³NEW 2016 Toyota Camry sold by July 5th 2016 will have available 0% financing for 72 months on approved credit. Not valid with any other offer including \$2,500 rebate. ⁴0% financing for up to 60 months available on New 2016 Camry, Corolla, Prius Liftback, Prius V, Avalon, Sienna, and Rav4. On Approved Credit. ⁵STK #33840A 2008 Kia Spectra was \$5,500, now \$3,495. Plus applicable tax, title, and dealer documentation fee. No security deposit required. A documentary service fee of \$150 may be added to vehicle price or capitalized cost. Does not include taxes, license, title, processing fees, insurance and dealer charges. Offers valid through 7-31-16.

For questions or more information go to www.toyotaofhermiston.com or call 541-567-6461

McKay Creek Estates



Celebrate Life
A program promoting healthy fulfilled lifestyles.

At Prestige Senior Living, we believe life should be a celebration! Studies have shown that up to 70% of what you feel from aging, is optional. The key to active, successful aging is your lifestyle. It is about wellness and nurturing body, mind and spirit.

Join us for one of our complimentary educational seminars that promote healthy, fulfilled living, at every age.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 2 P.M. – 3 P.M.

Using Samsung Cell Phones and Tablets

Presented by Kimberly Goodhue and Megan Martinez from U.S. Cellular

Feeling challenged with your Samsung smart phone or tablet? Kim and Meghan will instruct, discuss and demonstrate the use of these portable devices. One-on-one assistance will be available from these professionals to answer all your questions.

Space is limited for this FUN educational series. For more information and to reserve your seat please call (541) 276-1987.

McKay Creek Estates
1601 Southgate Place
Pendleton, Oregon 97801



Prestige Senior Living, L.L.C.