

43RD ANNUAL

HERMISTON FARM FAIR

NOVEMBER 30-DECEMBER 2, 2016

EASTERN OREGON TRADE AND EVENT CENTER



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BREEDING BETTER HONEYBEES



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DRONES IN AGRICULTURE

Annual event adds seminars for small farms and livestock

Half-day sessions to focus on variety of topics

By **GEORGE PLAVERN**
EO Media Group

A new lineup of presentations is coming to the 43rd annual Hermiston Farm Fair.

For the first time, the three-day event will include a seminar specifically for small farmers, featuring talks on chickens and honeybees. Organizers have also revived a dormant seminar on livestock management, and added a second half-day session on growing cereals such as wheat and canola.

Phil Hamm, station director at the Hermiston Agricultural Research and Extension Center, said the Farm Fair is growing thanks in part to additional space provided by the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center.

"There's a lot of new things happening at the Farm Fair that we've never been able to put all together before, because we didn't have the room," Hamm said.

That includes being able to reach out to small farms, which Hamm said are at the center of a large agricultural movement.

"There's just a lot of interest from people with these small acreages to learn about what they can do to make themselves unique and more profitable," he said.

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a small farm is defined as one that grosses less than \$250,000 per year. The vast majority of Oregon farms — 61.4 percent — are 50 acres or less in size, with farm-direct sales — the primary market for small farmers — topping \$44 million in 2012.

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A combine harvests wheat in a field off Fanshier Road west of Pendleton in August 2016.

Staff photo by E.J. Harris