

Blumenauer offers alternative to farm bill

By ERIC MORTENSON
EO Media Group

address problems across the country.

PORTLAND — Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer isn't on the House ag committee, but like many in the Portland district he represents, he's keenly interested in food and farming and has some ideas about how it should be supported in the next farm bill.



Blumenauer

Blumenauer, familiar in Congress for his bow ties and bicycle lapel pins, has spent the past two years asking what the farm bill would look like if it were written for Oregon. That is, providing budget and policy support for small and organic farms, local food systems, conservation programs, sustainable ag practices and for growing fruit and vegetables instead of providing subsidies for "cotton grown in the desert," as he put it during an Aug. 1 appearance in Portland.

He believes the farm bill, up for reauthorization in 2018, gives "too much to the wrong people to grow the wrong food in the wrong places." He said USDA spending for the type of agriculture practiced in Oregon, with 220 commodities and emerging regional food hubs, amounts to a "rounding error" in the department's \$140 billion annual budget.

Blumenauer wants to change that. He's drafted the Food and Farm Act, essentially an alternative farm bill, and plans to introduce it this fall. He also released a report <https://blumenauer.house.gov/growing-opportunities> that summarizes his findings from two years of talking to farmers, ranchers, consumers and other stakeholders.

In a presentation at Zenger Farm in East Portland, Blumenauer said a farm bill revised to reflect Oregon's style of agriculture would find favor in many other farming states, including California and Washington.

He said the broad range of USDA's activities mean a revised farm bill would

"The farm bill is the most important health bill," he said. "It's the most important environmental bill. It's an opportunity to link rural and small town Oregon with population centers. It's economic development. Anyone here eat? Drink water?"

"The punchline is that nobody understands the farm bill," Blumenauer continued. "The complexity, I think, in some cases is purposeful."

Organics, conservation work, fruit and vegetable "specialty crops" and small farms have been funded piecemeal, thrown financial "crumbs" in previous farm bills, he said. "We want to have a comprehensive farm bill that we offer up to have a point of departure, to change the conversation."

Blumenauer's Portland audience included Alexis Taylor, the Oregon Department of Agriculture director, and representatives from groups such as Oregon Tilth, which certifies organic operations, the Oregon Food Bank, the Oregon Winegrowers Association and Grand Central Cafe and Burgerville, local chains that prominently feature regionally produced food on their menus.

While generally supportive of Blumenauer's ideas on the farm bill, some in the audience questioned how the reforms will fare in an embattled Trump administration.

Blumenauer acknowledged the administration has "not displayed a lot of legislative dexterity" and said changes will have to be carried through Congress by a broad coalition.

"It's hard with this administration to know where to start," he said. Supporters should concentrate on "What we are for and why we are for it," he said.

"We need to build a coalition, build the case, and not be distracted by the next Dumpster fire."



AP Photo/Don Ryan

A bicyclist heads through downtown past the Salmon Street Springs fountain in Portland on Wednesday.

Furnace-like heat blasts the Northwest

Associated Press

PORTLAND — Forecasts for triple-digit heat have caused a minor panic across the Pacific Northwest, a region famous for cool weather where many people do not have air conditioning to help them endure the rare furnace-like blast.

In normally temperate Oregon and Washington, families generally get by on warm days by simply drawing shades and running fans. But a searing high-pressure system is expected to make Portland and Seattle hotter than Phoenix, at least for a couple of days.

Many concerned communities have opened cooling centers and warned residents to stay hydrated, avoid strenuous activity and keep their dogs out of parked vehicles.

The National Weather Service slightly dialed back its forecast for Portland to match or break its record high of 107 degrees. Meteorologist David Bishop said the city is now looking at 104 or 105 degrees on Wednesday and Thursday.

"With little to no cloud cover at night, the higher temperatures kind of hang around a little bit," Bishop said. That creates a cycle in which "the next day is going to be a little bit warmer because we're already starting off warmer than the previous day."

The latest forecast



AP Photo/Elaine Thompson

Davi Sobotta holds up her hands as she tries out the last, large tabletop fan available at a Home Depot hardware store ahead of an expected heat wave Tuesday in Seattle.

for Seattle also showed predicted highs easing a bit from earlier predictions. The weather service said the high for Wednesday would be 91 degrees and 94 on Thursday.

The Northwest is better known for its fall, winter and spring rainy seasons. Even July and August are relatively mild months. But the powerful high-pressure system arrived just at the height of summer.

Portland's light-rail trains are operating at slower speeds amid concern that the heat will cause tracks to expand and risk a derailment. In exchange for the slow service, fare inspectors are not checking riders for tickets.

Hun Taing uses the train to get to her job in downtown Portland, but she switched to an air-conditioned car because of the

delays. She and a co-worker, Heather Heater, had a casual work meeting Wednesday at Director Park, dipping their toes in the fountain as children splashed in the water.

They both have air conditioning at home — something they once lacked — and expressed more concern for the homeless and elderly than for their personal comfort.

"I was in an apartment without AC when I just had my twins, and it was really difficult," Taing said. "We had to pack ourselves in the car and just go somewhere, drive somewhere, because that apartment on the second floor was too hot for the infants."

Forecasters had warned that Seattle could see its highest temperatures since the 1890s. The city has recorded only three days at 100 degrees or higher

Brown declares state of emergency due to wildfires

SALEM (AP) — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown has declared a state of emergency in response to wildfire activity throughout the state.

Brown said in a news release Wednesday that the emergency declaration will ensure that state agencies have the needed resources to minimize the impact of wildfires.

According to the release, hot, dry, windy conditions with more thunderstorms in the forecast around the state have resulted in multiple red flag warnings, putting Oregon in a critical fire danger situation.

The declaration enables the Oregon National Guard to mobilize resources on an as-needed basis to assist the Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office with firefighting.

in the more than a century, according to the weather service.

The Pacific Northwest's largest city opened about 30 cooling centers in air-conditioned libraries and senior centers. Seattle officials also encouraged people to use more than two dozen wading pools and spray parks.

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AccuWeather.com Forecast

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
HOT	HOT			
Very hot with plenty of sunshine	Very hot with plenty of sun	Partly sunny and hot	Hot with some sun	Hot with times of sun and clouds
PENDLETON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
101° 69°	101° 66°	97° 63°	99° 64°	100° 66°
HERMISTON TEMPERATURE FORECAST				
105° 69°	106° 68°	102° 67°	103° 64°	104° 66°

ALMANAC

PENDLETON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	98°	60°
Normals	90°	60°
Records	107° (1898)	40° (1897)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.02"
Year to date	11.30"
Last year to date	7.27"
Normal year to date	7.97"

HERMISTON

through 3 p.m. yesterday

TEMPERATURE	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	99°	57°
Normals	90°	59°
Records	104° (1965)	44° (1987)

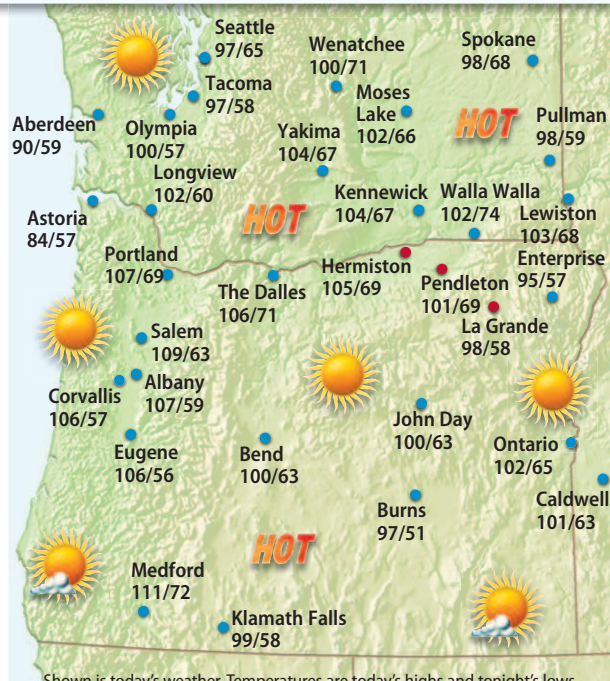
PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.01"
Year to date	6.59"
Last year to date	4.94"
Normal year to date	5.93"

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	5:41 a.m.
Sunset tonight	8:21 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:27 p.m.
Moonset today	2:13 a.m.

	Full	Last	New	First
	Aug 7	Aug 14	Aug 21	Aug 29



REGIONAL FORECAST

Coastal Oregon: Mostly sunny today; very warm across the north. Partly cloudy tonight.

Eastern and Central Oregon: Hot today with plenty of sunshine; extreme heat can be dangerous. Clear tonight.

Western Washington: Blazing sunshine today. Clear tonight. Mostly sunny tomorrow.

Eastern Washington: Brilliant sunshine today. Clear tonight. Sizzling sunshine tomorrow.

Cascades: Very hot today with scorching sunshine. Clear tonight. Partly sunny and hot tomorrow.

Northern California: Mostly sunny today; very hot in central parts. Partly cloudy tonight.

REGIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Astoria	84	57	s	72	58	s
Baker City	95	48	s	95	48	s
Bend	100	63	s	98	56	s
Brookings	66	54	s	65	54	pc
Burns	97	51	s	97	51	s
Enterprise	95	57	s	94	56	s
Eugene	106	56	s	95	52	pc
Heppner	99	70	s	99	66	s
Hermiston	105	69	s	106	68	s
John Day	100	63	s	98	61	s
Klamath Falls	99	58	s	93	57	pc
La Grande	98	58	s	97	56	s
Meacham	96	55	s	94	53	s
Medford	111	72	s	104	68	pc
Newport	73	53	s	63	51	pc
North Bend	71	55	s	68	54	c
Ontario	102	65	s	101	66	s
Pasco	104	64	s	105	62	s
Pendleton	101	69	s	101	66	s
Portland	107	69	s	97	63	s
Redmond	101	56	s	99	51	s
Salem	109	63	s	98	56	s
Spokane	98	68	s	96	64	s
Ukiah	95	54	s	94	51	s
Vancouver	105	66	s	96	60	s
Walla Walla	102	74	s	102	71	s
Yakima	104	67	s	105	66	s

WORLD CITIES

	Today			Fri.		
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W
Beijing	95	75	s	96	76	s
Hong Kong	88	83	t	91	84	t
Jerusalem	86	67	s	86	66	s
London	70	57	c	72	55	pc
Mexico City	77	58	pc	74	58	pc
Moscow	76	59	t	73	61	c
Paris	83	60	pc	77	62	pc
Rome	97	71	s	95	72	s
Seoul	94	78	pc	93	80	pc
Sydney	64	51	r	65	51	s
Tokyo	83	76	pc	85	78	c

WINDS

(in mph)	Today	Friday
Boardman	NNE 4-8	WNW 4-8
Pendleton	NNW 4-8	W 6-12

UV INDEX TODAY

1	4	7	7	4	1
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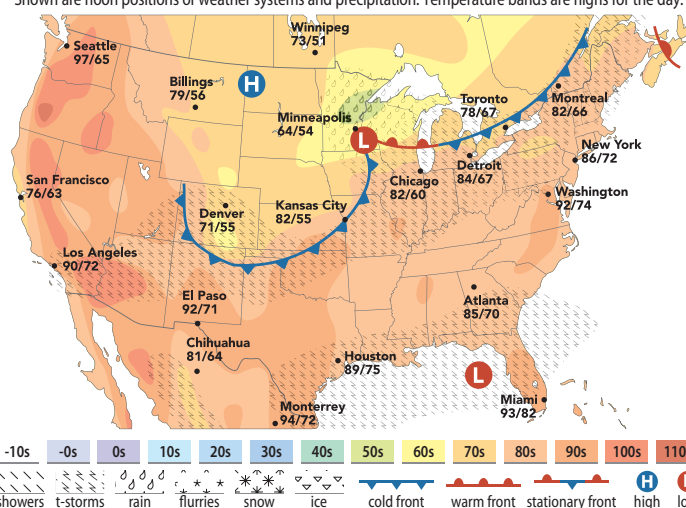
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m.
0-2, Low 3-5, Moderate 6-7, High; 8-10, Very High; 11+, Extreme

The higher the AccuWeather.com UV Index™ number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection.

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NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY

Shown are noon positions of weather systems and precipitation. Temperature bands are highs for the day.



National Summary: Severe weather will affect the Central states today, while storms dot the Southwest, Northeast and Ohio Valley. Flooding downpours will riddle the Deep South as extreme heat bakes the Northwest.

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)
High 108° in Needles, Calif. Low 34° in Leadville, Colo.

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today			Fri.			Today			Fri.			
	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	Hi	Lo	W	
Albuquerque	92	66	pc	85	63	pc	Louisville	87	72	t	81	62	t
Atlanta	85	70	t	86	71	pc	Memphis	89	73	pc	89	66	t
Atlanta City	82	72	pc	82	70	pc	Miami	93	82	pc	93	82	pc
Baltimore	89	70	pc	87	68	pc	Millwaukee	78	59	t	77	58	c
Billings	79	56	s	88	58	s	Minneapolis	64	54	r	67	60	pc
Birmingham	84	70	t	85	72	t	Nashville	89	70	pc	88	64	t
Boise	100	67	s	99	65	s	New Orleans	82	73	t	86	74	t
Boston	82	67	pc	81	66	pc	New York City	86	72	pc	84	72	pc
Charleston, SC	83	71	t	84	72	pc	Oklahoma City	91	63	pc	87	67	pc
Chicago	88	66	pc	83	61	t	Omaha	78	54	pc	79	61	s
Cleveland	85	69	t	83	61	t	Philadelphia	89	73	pc	89	70	pc