

EOU, OSU to strengthen ag program, rangeland research

By SIERRA DAWN MCCLAIN
Capital Press

LA GRANDE — Oregon State University plans to strengthen its partnership with Eastern Oregon University and expand opportunities for rangeland research, classes and field studies.

Officials say the soon-to-be expanded agricultural programs likely will benefit students and the farming community, especially in the cattle and dairy industries.

“We’re excited about the show of support for the program expansion,” said Penny Diebel, associate professor of applied economics and director of the Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program.

Since 1985, Oregon State University has offered some classes and agricultural majors to students at Eastern Oregon University in La Grande. The partnership, which started with one major, has grown and changed through the years. In recent years, students have been able to dual-enroll in OSU and EOU for some programs. This allows students who prefer or need to live in Eastern Oregon to take in-person OSU classes without moving to Corvallis.

OSU and EOU now are planning to take their longtime collaboration a step further by reinvigorating two programs: the Eastern Oregon Agriculture and Natural Resource Program and the Eastern Oregon Agriculture Research Center in Union.

The Eastern Oregon Agriculture



Oregon State University operates its Agriculture and Natural Resource Program at Eastern Oregon University, La Grande. Now the two state universities are expanding their agricultural programs in moves to benefit students and farmers.

and Natural Resource Program is the joint-degree program between OSU and EOU; the Union Experiment Station is where researchers study rangeland ecology, livestock systems, forage crops, forest management and other topics.

The two programs have historically operated separately, with little

interaction or collaboration. Now, OSU plans to build a strong partnership between the programs.

“There have been a lot of conversations about how do we join forces more, share faculty more, use the facilities in a better way for faculty and student research,” Diebel said.

One piece of the expansion

Oregon State University/Contributed Photo

at the Union station and on EOU’s campus.

On the curriculum side, one goal of the upcoming expansion is to strengthen the rangeland sciences degree offered in Corvallis and La Grande.

On the research side, the goal is to broaden field research opportunities for students and faculty.

Bryan Endress, OSU associate professor of rangeland ecology and management in the program, said the hands-on nature of the program will “help prepare students for the real world,” whether that means working on a family ranch, for a land management agency or elsewhere.

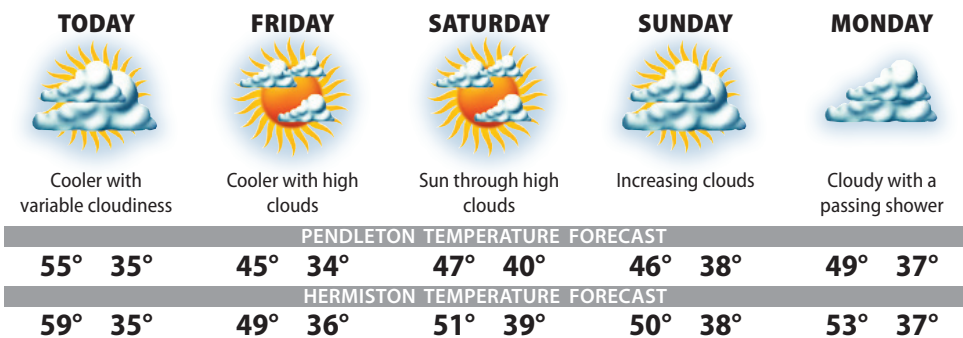
“Graduates from our program will be better prepared to enter the workforce, which will benefit the agricultural and natural resource community across the board,” Endress said.

Diebel said she thinks making the Union station a more active research base will both benefit Eastern Oregon students and provide opportunities for Corvallis-based OSU students to do short-term research projects and field work.

Since much of the research will relate to forage, cattle and dairy systems, Diebel said she expects many of the research findings from the expansion will benefit ranchers.

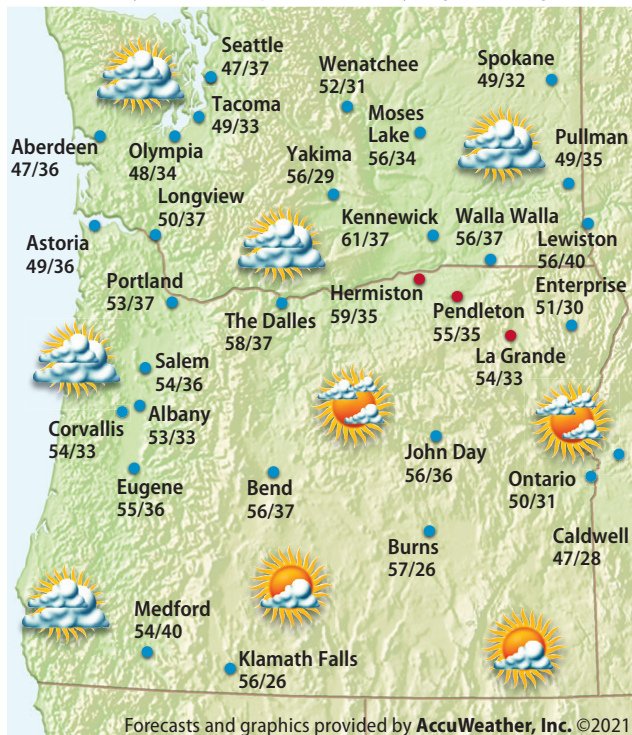
“There will also be ways for (farmers) to be involved,” Diebel said, adding faculty plan to use both public property for research and rely on private stakeholders, including area ranchers.

Forecast for Pendleton Area



OREGON FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



ALMANAC

PENDLETON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	68°	48°
Normals	43°	30°
Records	68° (2021)	-6° (1985)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.05"
Year to date	7.38"
Last year to date	12.26"
Normal year to date	11.78"

HERMISTON through 3 p.m. yest.

TEMP.	HIGH	LOW
Yesterday	71°	52°
Normals	44°	30°
Records	71° (2021)	-7° (1985)

PRECIPITATION

24 hours ending 3 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	0.00"
Normal month to date	0.03"
Year to date	5.07"
Last year to date	3.94"
Normal year to date	7.55"

WINDS (in mph)

Today	Fri.
Boardman WSW 7-14	NE 3-6
Pendleton W 7-14	N 4-8

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:17 a.m.
Sunset tonight	4:12 p.m.
Moonrise today	5:06 a.m.
Moonset today	3:10 p.m.

New First Full Last

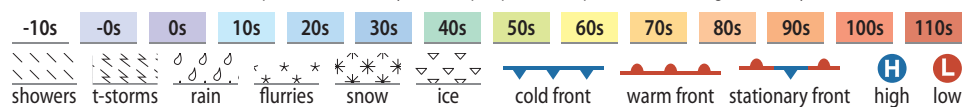
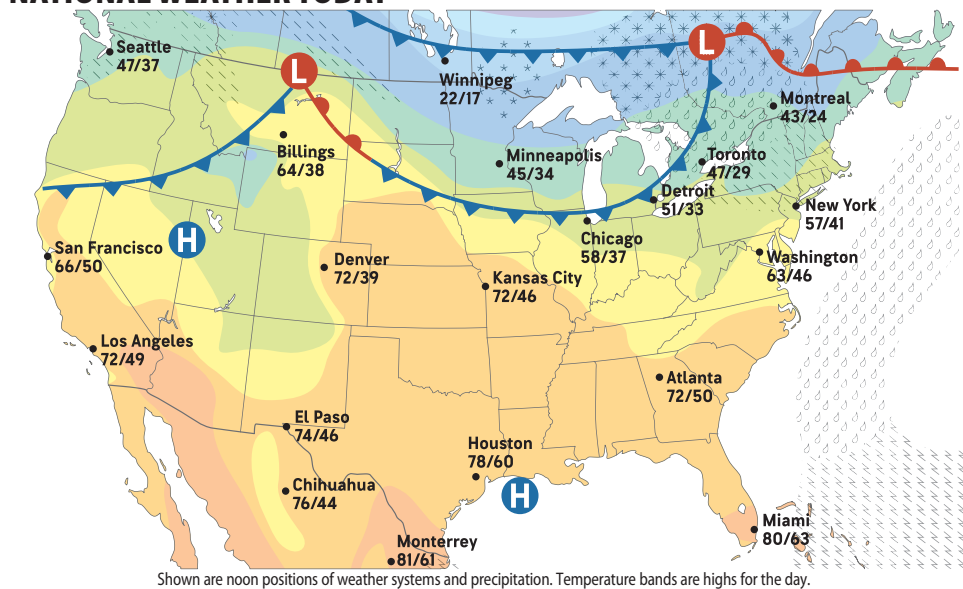


NATIONAL EXTREMES

Yesterday's National Extremes: (for the 48 contiguous states)

High 91° in Chino, Calif. Low 8° in Angel Fire, N.M.

NATIONAL WEATHER TODAY



Electric Bird scooters to remain in College Place until at least 2024

City in April joined Pendleton and Hermiston in using the scooters

By EMRY DINMAN
Walla Walla Union-Bulletin

COLLEGE PLACE — Electric scooters operated by Bird, the vehicle-sharing company based in Santa Monica, California, will continue to scoot around the city of College Place until at least January 2024, the city council unanimously decided last week.

The “last-mile” vehicles, useful for students and short-trip commuters in College Place, have been on the city’s streets for about seven months but already have been used around 6,700 times, City Administrator Mike Rizzitello told council members Nov. 23.

Most of that travel has been concentrated along College Avenue, which runs through Walla Walla University, with other high-traffic areas around Homestead Avenue, Meadowbrook Street near Walmart and the city’s parks.

When council members first approved the scooters within city limits in April, joining larger cities such as Pendleton and Hermiston, Bird delivered 25 scooters while piloting the program.

There are now 50 scooters parked around the city, and the city of Walla Walla is in talks with the vehicle-sharing company to potentially bring the electric scooters to the neighboring city, Rizzitello said.

College Place City Council now has renewed its memorandum of understanding with Bird, which describes the overall agreement between the city and



Bird electric scooters stand near the Walla Walla University campus in College Place, Nov. 24, 2021. The College Place City Council voted the day before to extend using the scooters until at least January 2024.

Bird and the expectations of both parties.

The updated agreement requires the company to provide educational materials to its riders. These materials, videos and signs must promote safe riding and parking, including information specifically related to parking in or near facilities compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Scooters improperly parked on sidewalks or other areas can impede pedestrians with disabilities, which has caused issues in College Place, company representative Garrett Gronowski acknowledged during the council’s Nov. 9 meeting.

“We know we need to do a little bit better job when it comes to community educa-

tion when it comes to where to park the Bird scooters,” he said Nov. 23.

Residents who see improperly parked scooters can also report the issue, either by sending a photo of the infraction to the company via the free Bird app, or by calling Bird’s headquarters at 866-205-2442.

A local Bird contractor will move the scooter within 90 minutes, and the last rider of the scooter will be sent educational materials, Gronowski said at the Nov. 9 meeting.

While a fine also could be issued, Gronowski added the company only would use those measures as a last resort out of concern that complaints on social media could “spread like wildfire.”

CORRECTIONS: The East Oregonian works hard to be accurate and sincerely regrets any errors. If you notice a mistake in the paper, please call 541-966-0818.

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