

Farmers:

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For Newton, the rainfall and crop levels leave him optimistic about the future. He said that other farmers in the area are, for the most part, happy.

Some hay farmers had to delay their first cutting due to rain, but that tradeoff seems minor in exchange for prospering crops. Newton said there haven't been rains like this since 2011, and it's greatly helped during a time of need.

"Fuel prices are high, other inputs are high, supply chain issues are great," Wysocki said. "This is a good year, offsetting the prices."

Newton echoed Wysocki's words, saying the rains came at the perfect moment.

"When you start adding those expenses up, you've got to have a little more income to cover the

costs," he said. "We've got a large crop coming in, and a decent price also, it definitely makes you a lot more optimistic."

Back in January, the future looked bleak. Newton said he took a risk this year by growing canola for the first time in nearly 25 years, unsure of how it would produce. Now, the crop is filling in nicely, and Newton plans to add canola back in the rotation in future years.

Those future years are also looking promising for Newton and other farmers. The fallow ground, ready for planting next year, has an estimated 2 to 4 inches of moisture in it. Newton said he believes this will help for next year as well. Above all else, he said he noticed how widespread the positive impact is in the area after years of hard times.

"It puts you in a much better mood," he said. "There are a lot more smiles when you go to town, that's for sure."



Antonio Arredondo/East Oregonian

Juniper Canyon Road snakes through the many fields of Newton Farms in Helix on June 30, 2022.

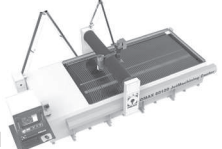
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