

UPGRADE

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has been replaced," Falk said. All this was done in the area where the gas tanks were dug up, making the process more efficient. Aboveground work that has been done includes the replacement of all concrete around the mini mart and adding concrete to a portion of the back of the store where there had been only dirt and gravel. The work has been expensive, and Falk said prices are continuing to rise — another reason he is eager to have the project completed. He said that since he started planning his renovations in late 2020, the cost of the project has risen by \$25,000. But it's an important investment. Falk said the work done will help enable the mini mart to remain in business for years to come.

"This will ensure that the store will be operating for at least another 50 years. Of course I won't be operating it then. At least I hope not," Falk said, adding that he then would be about 100 years old.



REPORT

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in a very good position, depending on the strength of the dollar, to really do a good job in increasing our exports," Sorte said.

Organic growth

One area where Sorte said he was pleasantly surprised was the growth of organic farming and ranching. Despite the number of certified organic farms decreasing from 657 in 2008 to 455 in 2019, the number of certified organic acres nearly doubled from 105,605 to 196,045.

The value of organic products sold also increased from \$156 million to \$454 million, making up 9% of the total value of market sales in Oregon.

"Organic farming has grown from a niche market to a segment of the market that includes very small farms to large corporate farms," the report states. "Retail food chains and restaurants continue to expand their organic offerings and the majority of organic products are now sold through retail food outlets."

Mid-size farms decline

Overall, Oregon added more than 2,000 new farms since 2012. However, the number of mid-size farms has continued to decline.

For example, there were 3,417 new farms established with 1-9 acres, and 21 new farms with 2,000-plus acres. But the number of farms between 50 and 999 acres dropped by 1,217.

The rise in small farms likely reflects growth

in organic farming, value-added on-farm operations, direct sales and agritourism, according to the report.

Meanwhile, large farms reflect the industry's move toward consolidation to attain economies of scale. Those two factors have combined to squeeze mid-size operations.

Overall, the number of acres in agricultural production has declining a little more than 9% since 1997, from 17.7 million to 16 million acres.

COVID-19 impacts

While the full impacts of the pandemic are still being unraveled, Oregon's foodservice industry was dealt a major blow.

Between 2019 and the third fiscal quarter of 2020, the sector saw a nearly 15% decline in sales and 23% decline in employment amid pandemic closures. Farms and food processors were also forced to scramble to find new buyers for their products. Farm gate sales declined

to their lowest point in over a decade, though the USDA still expects overall U.S. farm income to increase 43% from 2019 due in large part to government assistance programs.

Since Oregon has a lower percentage of commodity crops like soybeans and corn, and is more diverse in terms of specialty crops, OSU researchers say they anticipate the state's reported farm income will be somewhat lower than national averages.

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2021 CROSSWORD PUZZLER

- ACROSS 1 Slightly gamy 4 Subside 8 Gown's go-with 11 Not easily found 13 Psyched up 14 Wise old bird 15 Banished 17 Mr. Dangerfield 19 Scholarly volumes 21 Stockholm carrier 22 Mince 24 Ely of "Tarzan" 26 Small town 29 Gone up 31 Halloween decor 33 Asian tongue 34 Harmful ray 35 Go to court 37 Felt boot 39 Copper, in the lab 40 — Moines

Answer to Previous Puzzle. L I S A F L A Y U R T O D I N R E L I R I S G O L D I I I P L O P L O Y A L G P S B L O N D B A A K A Y S R E Q U E S T A U T O G A D F L E A I R O N O U T I O T A M T N W E E D S O N S O M A H A Z O O M S E T L O D E A S T I E R E D A Z E P U T T S R S A X E L

- DOWN 1 Mine find 2 Office machine 3 Snack chips 4 Heron or egret 5 Silver, in chem. 6 Also not 7 They're often inflated 8 Minor diplomat 9 Overwhelm 10 Tissue layer 12 Weds in haste 16 Dorothy's aunt 18 Bit of paint 20 Cry loudly 22 Oil-field oil 23 Busy places 25 Fabric surface 27 Speedway competitions 28 Red-coated cheese 30 Cloister dweller 32 Collect maple sap 36 Maize unit 38 Street intersection 41 Household member 43 Jungle crusher 45 Bakery goods 47 Cribbage card 49 Fierce whales 52 Successor to the throne 54 Urban train 55 Lead balloon 56 Simian 57 Fawn parent 59 Want-ad letters 60 Country addr. 63 Charleston's st.

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-67.

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