

Welcome to the
2nd edition
of the
Basin Ag News!

All stories and
content for this
publication
arranged for
and/or prepared
by the Klamath
Water Users
Association.

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BASIN AG NEWS

FEBRUARY 2023



FARM EXPO '23

The Klamath County Farm Bureau and the Klamath County Cattlemen will host the 2023 Farm Expo on February 22-23.

Chelsea Shearer, Klamath Water Users Association

Over a period of two days, over 900 fourth-grade students from throughout Klamath county will attend the Farm Expo held at the Klamath County Event Center. Since the 1970s, students have had an opportunity for hands-on learning about many different aspects of Klamath Basin agriculture. They will learn from local farmers, ranchers, dairymen and FFA groups about all the ways agriculture affects their lives. This year's booths will feature beef cows, dairy cows, sheep, pigs, goats, horses, honeybees, hay, mint, water, Master Gardeners, potatoes, grains, forestry, Grange Super Market, and vector control.

During the two-day event, FFA chapters from Henley High School, Bonanza Schools and Lost River Jr./Sr. High School participates by helping set up, running booths, and leading the children. The students cycle through seventeen demonstrations related to agriculture, spending six minutes at each demonstration.

“Teaching the next generation about how important it is for farmers and ranchers to get their irrigation water is why we do this event,” says Klamath Water Users Association’s Chelsea Shearer. “I love seeing the ‘ah-ha’ moments when kids put together that water from Upper Klamath Lake makes the food here in the Basin. In the water booth, children learn how much water it takes to produce a single school lunch. Ms. Shearer stated that is surprising many students do not know where irrigation water is and where it comes from. Relating that to school lunches is eye-opening to the kids. “These kids are our future, and KWUA is going to do all we can to ensure we preserve their agricultural heritage.” (cont. on page 2)

To better serve the local community welcome to the second issue of
Basin Ag News, a new monthly publication with content created and controlled
BY THE AG COMMUNITY!

Send your story ideas to BASIN AG NEWS Coordinator, Moss Driscoll, Klamath Water Users Association, and Chelsea Shearer, KWUA’s office manager., moss@kwua.org (541) 891-8836 or chelsea@kwua.org.
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What it takes to produce food on display at Farm Expo

(cont. from page 1) Christy Flowers, who is in her eighteenth year helping organize the event, said it’s a way to teach students about the food that makes it to their tables.

“They need to learn where their food comes from and that it doesn’t (cont. on page 3) just come from the grocery store,” Flowers said.

Scotty Fenters, of Circle C in Malin, agrees but believes the needle is moving when it comes to youth making connections between agriculture and their food on the table.

“The world’s just changing really fast,” Fenters said. “Things that people asked about ten years ago are going to the wayside. They’re interested, they’re asking good questions about how crops grow, and it seems like they think it’s cool that we raise all these products here.”

For the larger public, there will be an Open House on Wednesday, February 22, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Admission is free, and there will be live animals, wool spinning, papermaking, and a “Got Milk?” photo booth available for kids. There will be a free gift basket drawing for one lucky adult and one child.

The Open House Farm Expo will feature special guest Mariana Llamas, Alternate Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador. Mariana will be sharing her perspectives about life on a dairy farm with students and community members of all ages. While in Klamath County, she will be visiting classrooms, connecting with local dairy women and dairy farming families, and promoting the dairy industry at the Farm Expo Open House.

Also, during the open house, singer Dana Wirth will perform live with traditional ballads and songs of the west. Dana is a passionate advocate for her western heritage and animal agriculture, as well as a proud Klamath County Cattlewoman.

“Our mission is to educate our community, beginning with our youth, that across our great county, farmers and ranchers work each day to produce the food you and your family enjoy. To us, farming is much more than our chosen profession. It is a commitment to providing you with safe, nutritious, and affordable food, caring for our animals, our land and giving back to our community.”

This statement was displayed at the Farm Expo in front of a table setting for 156 people. The number of people each American Farmer feeds approximately annually.



Mariana Llamas, 2022-2023 Alternate Oregon Dairy Princess Ambassador



KWUA teaches kids how many gallons of irrigation water it takes to make a school lunch. Photo by Hannah Whitley



Sophie Desavedo, 11, holds a lamb at the 2022 Farm Expo open house, hosted by the Klamath County Farm Bureau and Klamath County Cattlewomen, at the Klamath County Fairgrounds on Wednesday. Photo by Arden Barnes



This table is set for 156 people, which represents how many people a farmer feeds a day. Photo by Brian Gailey



Photo by Brian Gailey



Overview of a few booths. Photo by Brian Gailey

This is a fantastic event for parents and children to share together! We hope to see you on February 22 at the Farm Expo Open House.



The final attraction at the February 22 open house will be the third annual Klamath Kids Iron Chef Challenge starting at 5 PM. This event is a cooking competition that illustrates how well 4-H and FFA youth and leaders can apply their knowledge and skills of cooking, nutrition, teamwork, presentation, and creativity in a fun environment. The event will promote 4H, FFA Food Hero, and Farm to School.

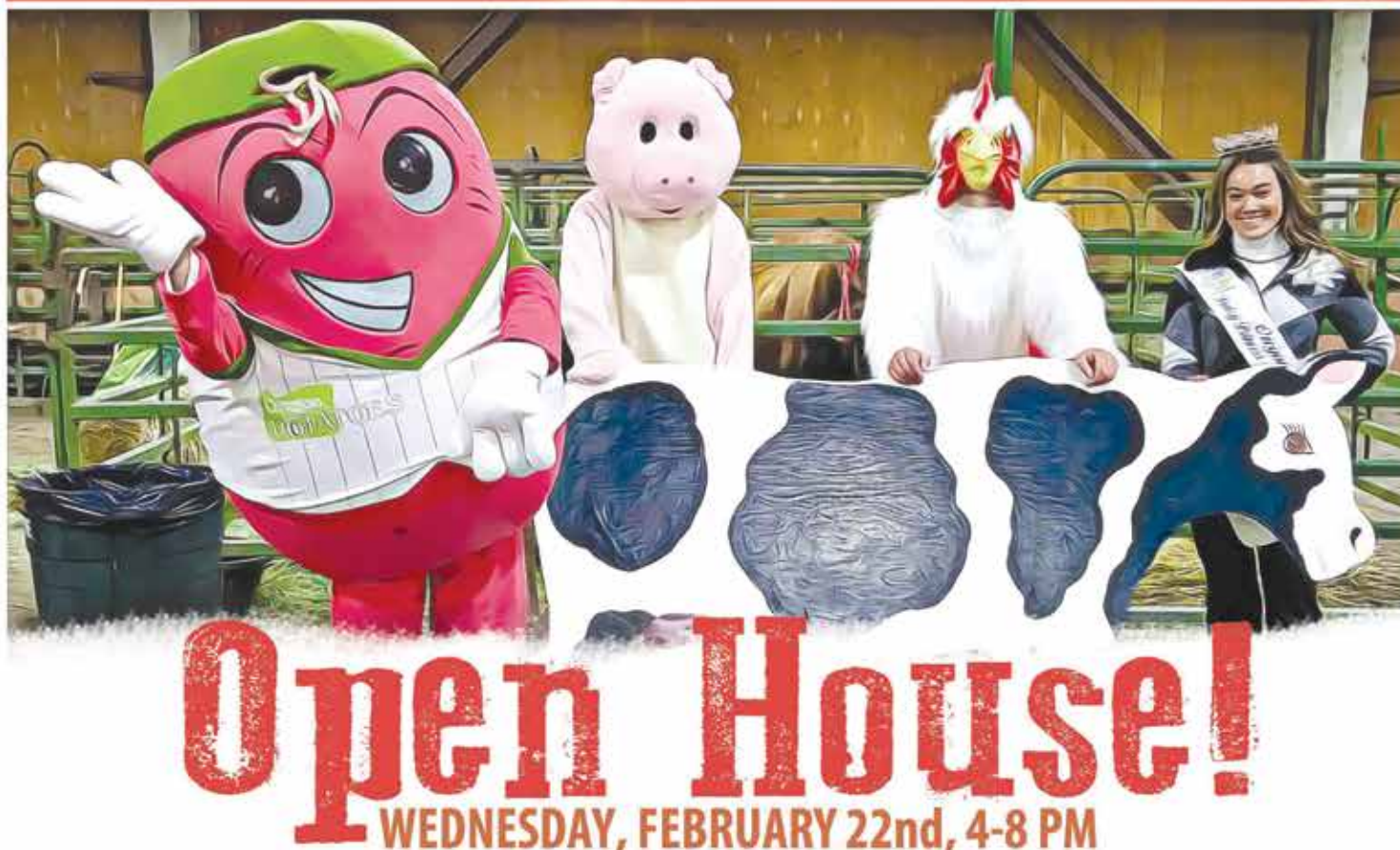
Students will partner up in teams to compete in a television-style cooking competition before a crowd of onlookers. The teams will have 20 minutes to make create a food dish item using healthful ingredients in front of an audience and will be judged based on 1) appearance/ presentation 2) creativity 3) taste 4) knowledge of the health benefits of your item/food groups. A special ingredient will be revealed halfway through the competition. This event is organized by the Oregon State University Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center.



Representative talks to children about how Horses influenced the Space Shuttle. Photo by Hannah Whitley.

The Klamath County Farm Bureau & the Klamath County Cattlewomen invite you to

FARM EXPO '23



Klamath County Event Center

Beef Goats Sheep Honey Bees
Vector control Hay Forestry Dairy
Horses 4-H & FFA Master Gardeners
Grange Super Market Swine Water
Potatoes Grain Mint

Special attraction...

Dana Wirth

Come hear her performances of traditional ballads and songs of the West. Dana is a passionate advocate for her Western Heritage and animal agriculture as well as a proud Klamath County Cattlewoman.



This is an absolutely awesome event for parents and children to share together! See **live farm animals**, and farm and forest product displays!

FREE ADMISSION!

Got Milk Photo Booth!
WOOL spinning! Paper Making!

Youth Iron Chef Challenge!

Free Gift Basket Drawing for 1-Adult & 1-Child!

2022-2023 Oregon Dairy princess, Mariana Llamas, will be attending the Farm Expo to hand out milk and cheese samples during the open house on Wed night.



Klamath Basin Haygrowers have been presenting at Farm Expo for over 35 years!



Students learn about hay production from KBHGA member Dave Reed at Farm Expo. Photo by Craig Reed.

Roughly half the alfalfa grown in the Klamath Project is sold to the California dairy industry.

The Klamath Project contains 60,000 acres of alfalfa capable of producing 300,000 tons of hay (a relatively exceptionally yield high for this region). This is enough alfalfa to provide supplemental feed to 300,000 dairy cows for a year (equivalent to approximately 18 percent of California's dairy cows).

On that basis, to understand the "value" of farming, consider 18 percent of the milk, cheese, butter, ice cream, and yogurt that comes from California's dairy industry as originating, in large part, in the alfalfa fields of the Klamath Project. That's 7.5 billion pounds of milk, 450 million pounds of cheese, 96 million pounds of butter, 95 million pounds of ice cream, and 80 million pounds of yogurt. -Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance

The Klamath Basin Haygrowers Association is a regional affiliate of the Oregon Hay and Forage Growers Association. Join today to enjoy membership benefits including:

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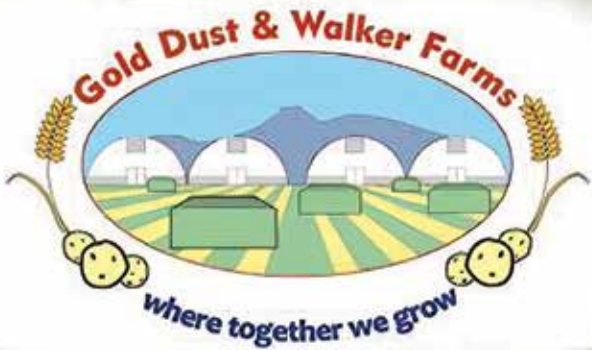
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Find the link “Contact K.I.D.” tab and sign up for “News and Information”

Klamath Irrigation District – Building Our Community Since 1905

Learn more about the District at www.KlamathID.org

History of the Klamath Reclamation Project

Klamath Irrigation District is updating our website to include a more comprehensive history of our region and the formation of the Klamath Project.

Our website provides a link to an interactive story map where you can explore various maps of the region and learn a little about its people.

<https://klamathid.org/home-01/history/>



Board of Directors Meeting

10am Thursday, 9 March 2023, at the KID Headquarters’ Office located at 6640 KID Lane, Klamath Falls, OR.

The public may call in at 425-436-6347, using ACCESS CODE 8826661#

In accordance with ORS 192.630 (1) all meetings of the governing body of public body shall be open to the public and all person shall be permitted to attend any meeting except as otherwise provided by ORS 192.610 to 192.690. ORS 192.660 (1). ORS 192.610 to 192.690 does not prevent governing body of a public body from holding executive session during a regular meeting, special or emergency meeting, after presiding officer has identified the authorization under ORS 192.610 to 192.690 for holding the executive session. Any persons with disabilities requiring special services please contact K.I.D.’s office at (541) 882-6661

Unsupported Science
=
Opinions



Marie Caldwell, Executive Director of SiskiyouWorks.

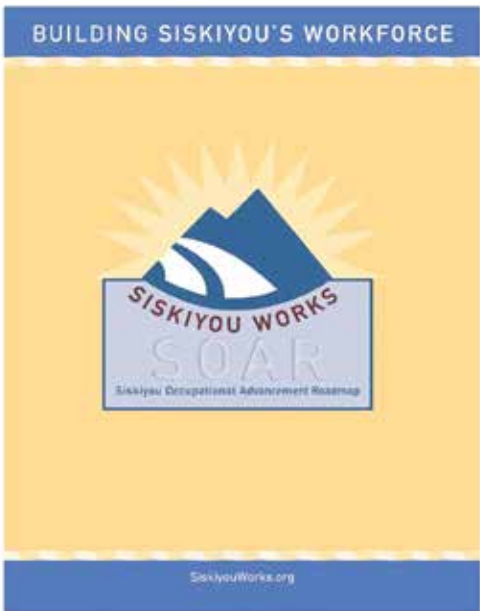
SiskiyouWorks and Ore-Cal RC&D Stimulate the “Restoration Economy”

Moss Driscoll, KWUA

If you are looking to get a new ag-related program started in school, look no further than Marie Caldwell, Executive Director of SiskiyouWorks. Caldwell is a history and economics teacher by training, and former principal at Yreka High School and superintendent of Scott Valley Unified School District.

With Caldwell’s support, in 2015 Yreka School, and in 2018 Etna High School began hosting a fire training program for students, in partnership with the Klamath National Forest. This embedded six-week course includes classroom lectures, hands-on learning, and field training, all leading to a certificate in entry-level wildlife firefighting.

Over the last three years, with assistance from the Ford Family Foundation, Caldwell has served as full-time director of SiskiyouWorks, now a nonprofit organization based in Siskiyou



County with the objective of matching employment opportunities in the region with interested students and job seekers. The organization’s strategy is based on the Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors’ approved Workforce Development Plan, which intends to boost both the quantity and quality of the region’s workforce.

SiskiyouWorks is partnered with Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) area council. According to George Jennings, executive director of Ore-Cal RC&D, they see the organization’s work as part of building a “restoration economy” in northern California and southern Oregon.

Although focused on the regional need for forest fuel reduction treatment, Caldwell and Jennings also see agricultural employment opportunities as part of this concept. At Butte Valley Unified School District, Caldwell and Jennings’ organizations have helped start a community garden and greenhouse, in cooperation with Future Farmers of America (FFA) and assistance from a California K12 Strong Workforce Program and National Council of RC&D Councils. The program even includes vermiculture (bee keeping). Caldwell sees this program as part of the larger effort to expand and enhance agricultural employment opportunities in the region.

“People sometimes forget that the term ‘agriculture’ encompasses not only crop and livestock production but also natural resources, watershed restoration, fisheries and forestry,” Caldwell said. “For the Klamath Basin, agriculture and natural resources is the industry that unites us all.”

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Photo by Jen Ackley

Alfalfa, The Queen of Forages

Dan Keppen, Family Farm Alliance

Alfalfa is the most important forage legume worldwide, being hailed as the “queen of forages” due to its adaptability, high yield, and high quality.

Given its protein, calcium and fiber content, alfalfa is also considered the “secret ingredient” for the dairy industry, essential for milk production. It is not a coincidence that the primary dairy production regions in the United States correspond with areas of high alfalfa acreage, such as Wisconsin, California, and Idaho.

Based on the most recent (2021) figures, California leads the nation in dairy production, generating 41.8 billion pounds of milk (18.5% of total U.S. output) from 1.7 million dairy cows. Half that milk is turned into cheese, generating 2.5 billion pounds of cheese. California also leads the nation in the production of butter (534 million pounds), ice cream (528 million pounds), and yogurt (442 million pounds).

Given its reputation for producing high-quality hay (conventional and organic) and its relative location, the Klamath Project is a key source of alfalfa for California’s dairy industry.

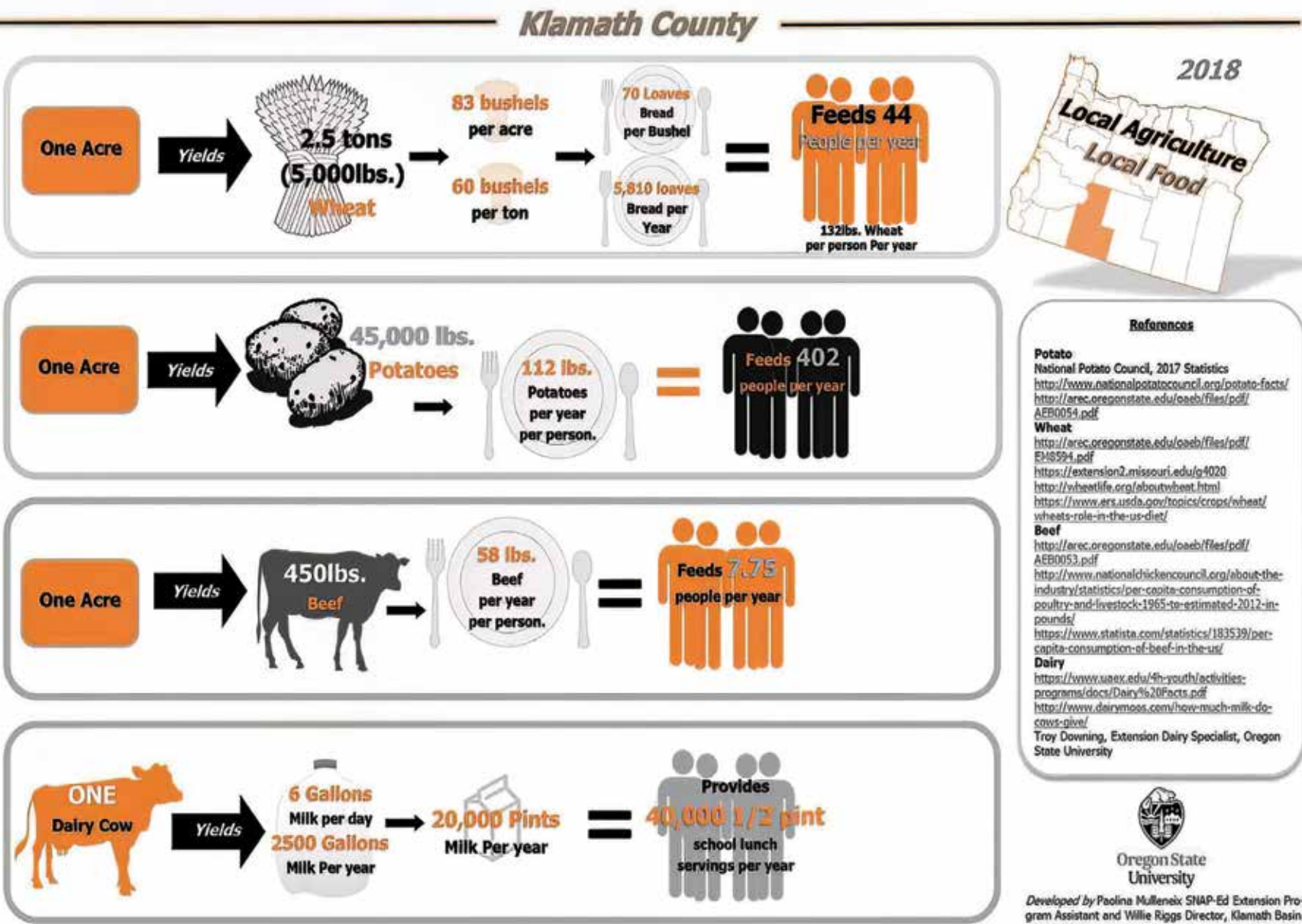
Roughly half the alfalfa grown in the Klamath Project is sold to the California dairy industry. The Klamath Project contains 60,000 acres of alfalfa capable of producing 300,000 tons of hay (a relatively exceptionally yield high for this region). This is enough alfalfa to provide supplemental feed to 300,000 dairy cows for a year (equivalent to approximately 18 percent of California’s dairy cows).

On that basis, to understand the “value” of farming, consider 18 percent of the milk, cheese, butter, ice cream, and yogurt that comes from California’s dairy industry as originating, in large part, in the alfalfa fields of the Klamath Project. That’s 7.5 billion pounds of milk, 450 million pounds of cheese, 96 million pounds of butter, 95 million pounds of ice cream, and 80 million pounds of yogurt.

To bring it home, that’s enough dairy products to meet the annual demand of the following number of Americans:

- Cheese – 11.2 million people
- Butter – 16 million people
- Ice Cream – 4.7 million people
- Yogurt – 5.7 million people

As a vital part of the nation’s food supply, alfalfa is one of the most efficient and sustainable crops we grow. For example, alfalfa allows dairy producers to blend “waste” feeds like almond hulls, grape pomace and rice straw,





Dairy cattle on banks of KDD, photo by Chelsea Shearer

which would otherwise go unused. Alfalfa is therefore key to keeping livestock feed and milk prices affordable, as well as lowering the overall feed requirements and carbon footprint of dairy.

Alfalfa is also grown as a seed crop to sell to other farmers around the world. When alfalfa is grown for seed, it flowers. Those alfalfa flowers attract bees and bees produce honey. More honey is made from alfalfa than any other crop.

Alfalfa fields are in fact the beginning of a food chain for a host of wildlife. The fields attract insects, which attract songbirds and rodents, which in turn bring nature's hunters, like hawks, foxes, and badgers. Large wildlife like deer and elk are drawn to alfalfa for the same reasons dairy cows are. The benefits of alfalfa extend below ground as well. As legume, alfalfa fixes nitrogen from the air into the soil, improving nutrient levels. The plant's extensive root structure creates channels in the soil and promotes soil tilth. Additionally, alfalfa helps prevent soil erosion, since it's a perennial crop that serves as groundcover in the non-growing season.

Alfalfa is also an important crop for adjusting to a water uncertain future. The plant's deep roots tap into residual moisture, sustaining productivity,

even when as little as half the water requirement is applied, and staying alive when irrigation ceases. Because it is harvested in several cuttings, alfalfa can provide partial economic yields. Alfalfa fields can also be flooded in winter to recharge aquifers in many parts of the West. In both wet and dry times, alfalfa offers tremendous flexibility.

With drought conditions continuing to blanket the Western U.S., and farmers struggling to find adequate water supplies, competing interests are pressuring the federal government to cut the water supply farmers are using to grow our food, including alfalfa. In response, the Family Farm Alliance and California Farm Water Coalition in 2022 produced a White Paper titled, “Our Food Supply at Risk; The Importance of Alfalfa Production in the American West,” detailing the valuable *role alfalfa plays as a principal feed source* for the nation’s livestock and dairy industries, its environmental benefits, and contribution to effective drought management.

So next time you drive past a bright green field of alfalfa or see a semi-truck stacked tall with hay, take a moment to appreciate this often underappreciated (sometimes maligned) “queen of forages”.

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Change Is Happening In Tule Lake

Tule Lake beginning to dry up, 2021, photo by Chelsea Shearer

Moss Driscoll, KWUA

Before addressing current events in Tule Lake, a little historical context is helpful.

According to drill core samples from the former lakebed, it has probably been at least 2.4 million years since Tule Lake has been as dry as it is today. However, those same drill cores also indicate that water levels in Tule Lake have always varied, as the region’s climate and precipitation patterns have shifted.

The first written account of Tule Lake is from when Jesse and Lindsey Applegate and their party crossed the Lost River which indicates that in 1846 the lake covered 55,000 acres and was approximately seven feet deep at its southern end. Water levels in the lake rose 24 feet over the following 25 years, the lake nearly doubling in size, but then water levels fell 18 feet during an extended dry period up until the winter of 1889. When the snow melted the following spring, the excessive runoff poured into the Lost River Slough greatly increasing the flow in the Lost River. Water levels

in Tule Lake rose 21 feet that year, increasing the lake to approximately 110,000 acres and a maximum depth of over 30 feet. At that time, Tule Lake contained over two million acre-feet of water.

Wave-washed rocks at the south end of Tule Lake, along with established trails around the former shoreline, suggest the lake was still another 12 feet deeper during recent human history. Under those conditions, Tule Lake extended almost to where Henley High School is now located.

Far longer back, around three million years ago, Tule Lake appears to have been part of a much larger pluvial lake, commonly known as Lake Modoc, which covered from Mount Mazama to probably as far south as the Town of Bieber, in Lassen County, California. At its deepest spot, where Tule Lake would eventually exist, Lake Modoc was over 200 feet deep.

The eruption of the Medicine Lakes Volcano, beginning two million years ago, cut off the flow of Lake Modoc’s natural outlet, which led to the Pit

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River, a tributary to the Sacramento. A few lava tubes still conveyed groundwater to the Pit River watershed, but eventually, Lake Modoc cut another outlet to the ocean, through a geologically faulted portion of the Cascade Range, forming what is now the Klamath River Canyon. As the region’s climate dried during the last 10,000 years, Lake Modoc receded to three separate water bodies – Upper Klamath Lake, Lower Klamath Lake, and Tule Lake.

Mankind’s “reclamation” of Tule Lake started in earnest in 1890, when the Klamath County paid John Frank Adams, Jesse Carr, and a group of ranches to construct a two-mile-long dike across the Lost River Slough, to prevent the Klamath River from flowing into the Lost River.

After authorization of the Klamath Project in 1905, the federal government completed Clear Lake Dam in 1910 and two years later, 1912, finished construction of the Lost River Diversion Dam and Channel, which kept Klamath River water from flowing to the Lost River in addition to making it possible to divert water from the Lost River to the Klamath River that would otherwise naturally end up in Tule Lake.

With that history in mind, let’s turn to the current state of Tule Lake. As a result of a severe reduction in irrigation deliveries from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River during the last three years, tens of thousands of acres of farmland have been idled, cutting off the return flows that have maintained Tule Lake over the last century. Now, even the last 13,000 acres of permanent and seasonal wetlands in the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge have gone dry.

This situation gives Tulelake Irrigation District, which operates and maintains the facilities that manage water levels in Tule Lake, in cooperation with the refuge manager of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the daunting task of figuring out how to refill the lake.

“Give me an adequate supply of water and we’ll have Tule Lake Sumps 1A and 1B full in no time,” said Brad Kirby, manager of Tulelake Irrigation District. “But even filling the relatively smaller 3,500-acre Sump 1B, and further maintaining it once it is full, is impossible when you can’t divert water from the Klamath River.”

Short of sufficient annual water supplies identified for irrigated agriculture and refuge wetlands from Upper Klamath Lake, Kirby and the district have modified winter operations to maximize potential benefit of Lost River winter runoff. In early January, when flows in the Lost River momentarily increased to over 400 cubic feet per second, Kirby and his team scrambled to deal with the water. Adjusting the system and opening gates to accommodate the rapid increase in inflow, the district was able to direct the water onto fields within the Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, creating feeding and resting water habitat for the tail end of the winter waterfowl migration. As great as that sounds, the habitat created by the district from the most significant winter runoff event the Lost River has seen in the last three years amounted to about 5% of what Tule Lake Sumps 1A and 1B could provide, and without continued surface water flowing through the Tulelake Irrigation District this upcoming season that amount will only decrease. Kirby also hopes that moving water through canals and drains in the winter will incidentally help the upper groundwater levels that have been depleted over the past couple decades by the lack of surface water supplies to the once saturated lake bottom that is the footprint of the Tulelake Irrigation District and Tule Lake National Wildlife Refuge, particularly in areas with residents who rely on shallow wells for their domestic water supply.

Kirby and the Tulelake Irrigation District crew have had to change their way of thinking about operations and have come up with creative ways to manage their system with severely limited water supplies over the last few years. “We’ve been able to make some things happen that I didn’t think were physically possible with our system,” Kirby said, “But even with all we’ve been able to accomplish, it doesn’t amount to more than a fraction of what our community, farms, and wildlife need to survive.” Adaptation to natural change is a necessity, and for TID, if not all water managers, is largely driven by conservation and efficiency. It is just hard to understand unjustified devastation brought on by manufactured change when the real solution is the one thing that is available, but has been taken from this basin and we aren’t allowed to use – water.



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Bentz to Chair House Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee

Moss Driscoll, KWUA

On February 1, U.S. Representative Bruce Westerman (R-Ark.), Chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, announced that U.S. Representative Cliff Bentz will serve as chair of the Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Subcommittee for the 118th Congress. Bentz, Republican from Ontario, recently won his second term representing Oregon’s 2nd Congressional District, which includes Klamath County, along with most of the remainder of eastern, central, and southern Oregon.

In a public statement Bentz thanked Westerman for the opportunity. “Our subcommittee,” Bentz said, “will improve the federal response to the crippling drought that is challenging the future of the west so that everyone—farmers, ranchers, homeowners, businesses, and tribes—can continue to live in and produce food and fiber, essential to our nation’s security, on our lands.”

Bentz is no stranger to either farming or water, having been raised on family ranches in Harney County. After attending law school at Lewis and Clark, he returned to eastern Oregon, specializing in water law. While practicing law in Ontario, he served eight years as a member and then chair of the Oregon Water Resources Commission. He later served five terms as an Oregon State Representative.

During his first term, Bentz showed no hesitancy wading into water issues in Klamath, despite their contentious history. In September, Bentz joined U.S. Representative Doug LaMalfa (R-Calif.) in a joint statement opposing the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s decision to approve delicensing and removal of the four dams on the mainstem of the Klamath River, historically part of PacifiCorp’s Klamath Hydroelectric Project.

In accepting the chairmanship, Bentz made clear that he intends to address the current administration of the federal Endangered Species Act. “The Biden Administration, during this drought, has repeatedly perverted the application of the Endangered Species Act for the Administration’s political ends,” Bentz said, “wrongfully taking water away from those to whom water was promised, more than 100 years ago, by this same government. This subcommittee will conduct serious oversight of such heavy handed, wrongheaded, and scientifically unbalanced federal agency actions taken over the past two years.”

Over the last two years, the Bureau of Reclamation’s allocation to the farms and refuges of the Klamath Project has amounted to less than 8 percent of the 1.3 million acre-feet of inflow to Upper Klamath Lake.

Bentz will also serve as a returning member of the House Judiciary Committee.

U.S.
Representative
Cliff Bentz will
serve as chair of
the Water, Wildlife
and Fisheries
Subcommittee
for the 118th
Congress.



Fill The Lake Campaign Update

Moss Driscoll, KWUA

Over the last month, Klamath Falls has received less than two-tenths of an inch of precipitation, at a point of year when we should be seeing five times that amount. Inflows to Upper Klamath Lake have fallen to near-record lows and the lake’s water level has increased only half a foot, remaining more than two feet from full. Worse yet, despite a snowpack that is over 100 percent of normal, forecasted inflows to Upper Klamath Lake through the remainder of the year have fallen by roughly a third.

Suddenly, a water supply outlook that was looking like 2013 or 2018 (i.e., bad but manageable) is now devolving into another 2020 or 2022 (i.e., a train-wreck).

We are a little over a month away from when the Bureau of Reclamation begins to calculate water allocations for the spring and summer irrigation season. Based on present forecasts, Reclamation’s Excel spreadsheet for operating the Klamath Project computes a water supply from Upper Klamath Lake and the Klamath River, in accordance with various biological opinions, of approximately 100,000 acre-feet, or less than one-third the Project’s historical demand.

Further, based on levels in Upper Klamath Lake deemed to be most protective of shoreline spawning by a small cohort of C’Waam (Lost River suckers), Reclamation appears likely to say that water is unavailable for farms and refuges until around June 1.

Absent a very cool and wet spring, or a supplemental water supply, waiting until June 1 to irrigate likely means waiting until next year to grow a crop. After all, a farmer can’t finish crops that don’t get started. And no explanation should be needed for what the lack of water means for ducks looking for a refuge to nest in.

Unfortunately, Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA) saw this situation coming last fall and began calling for Reclamation to be prepared,

in the event conditions remained dry, to reduce river flows in order to fill the lake. That was long after irrigation had effectively ceased, as districts halted diversions in August, well before the end of the growing season.

In November, when KWUA began publicly calling for releases from Link River Dam to be reduced, the required cut was roughly one-third of the outflow. KWUA pointed out that such reductions would still keep flows well above historical minimums.

Despite the repeated appeals from KWUA and others (including the Klamath Tribes), Reclamation failed to act until this last week. Reclamation even refused to act when its own temporary operating procedures called for reductions.

Having failed to act earlier, if all the gates on Link River Dam were completely shut for the next month and half, Upper Klamath Lake would still be well below “required” levels. Not having learned from the last three years, Reclamation has once again put the Basin in the untenable position of there simply not being enough water to meet competing lake level and river flow requirements over the summer.

Caught in the middle of this mess are 200,000 acres of some of the most fertile and productive agricultural and refuge lands in the world, which despite all the obstacles, are still helping keep our nation’s grocery store shelves stocked. A little assistance from Mother Nature would be timely and most gratefully appreciated.



Upper Klamath Lake May 2022, Photo by Chelsea Shearer

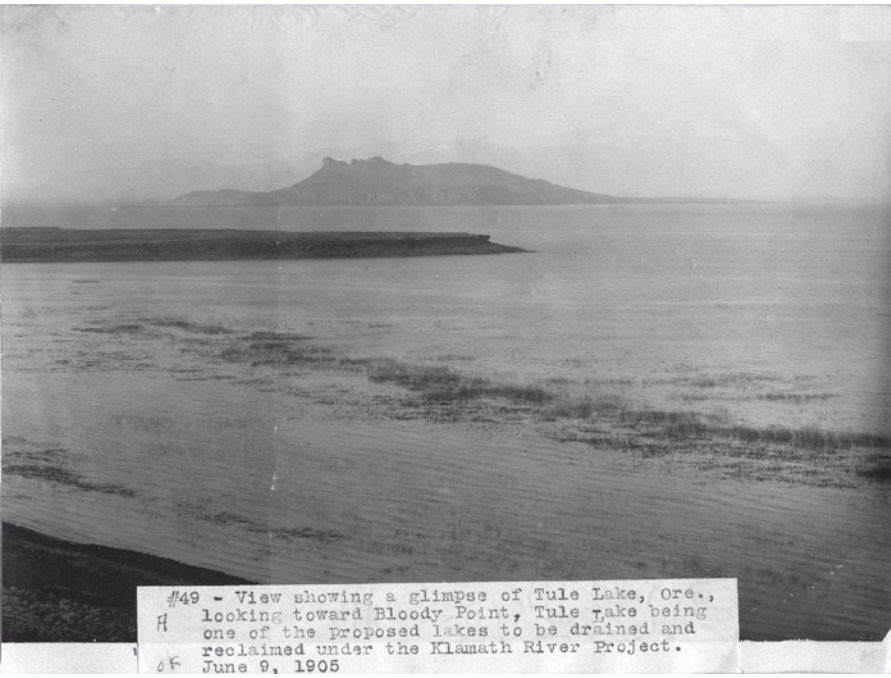




2019, wildlife using refuge one last time. Photo by Chelsea Shearer



Aerial photo of Sump 1A, 6-18-21



#49 - View showing a glimpse of Tule Lake, Ore., looking toward Bloody Point, Tule Lake being one of the proposed lakes to be drained and reclaimed under the Klamath River Project. June 9, 1905

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National FFA Week *Chelsea Shearer, KWUA*



National FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Feb. 22, George Washington's birthday. This year, the week kicks off on Feb. 18 and culminates on Saturday, Feb. 25.

The National FFA Board of Directors designated the weeklong tradition, which began in 1948, recognizing Washington's legacy as an agriculturist and farmer. A group of young farmers founded FFA in 1928, and the organization has been influencing generations that agriculture is more than planting and harvesting — it involves science, business and more.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 850,000 student members as part of 8,995 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

In the Klamath Basin we have four chapters, Henley FFA, Lost River FFA, Bonanza FFA, and the newly formed Mazama FFA.

Congratulations to the Henley, Lost River, and Bonanza FFA members on a successful 2023 Southern Oregon District FFA Convention!!!

Lost River: 1st place- Scrapbook *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 1st place- Technology Scrapbook *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 1st place- Advanced

Portfolio, Teah Ongman *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 2nd place- Advanced Portfolio, Alicia Venegas, 1st place- Beginning Portfolio, Cassidy Vaughan *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 3rd place- Beginning Portfolio, JoVi Holmes, 8th place- Creed Speaker, Macey Thompson, 19th place- Job Interview, Luci Haywood, 3rd place- Advanced Prepared Speaker, Alicia Venegas, 3rd place- Sophomore Prepared Speaker, Spencer Seus, 2nd place- Beginning Prepared Speaker, Anna Klierer *MOVES ON TO SECTIONALS*. Congratulations to Betty Kay Overcash for being officially approved to receive her Oregon State FFA Degree at State Convention in March!

Henley: 3rd place- Creed Speaking, Cayden Schweiger *MOVES ON TO SECTIONALS* 4th place- Sophomore Prepared Public Speaking, Joshua Rose, 4th place- Job Interview, Joshua Rose, 1st place- Treasurer's Book, Billie Rose *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 2nd place- Scrapbook, Abby Belcastro *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 4th place- Technology Scrapbook, Kelsey Whitaker, 1st Place- Diversified Livestock Proficiency, Bayli Ladner *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 1st place- Sheep Production Proficiency, Matt Iversen, 1st place- Diversified Agriculture Proficiency, Sam Iversen *MOVES ON TO STATE*

Bonanza: 3rd place -Technology Scrapbook, Vashti Arata, 2nd place- Secretary Book, Grace Kness *MOVES ON TO STATE*, 4th place- Treasurer book, Mary Schooler, 7th place- Sophomore Public Speaking, Rebekah Rodgers, 6th- conduct meeting team which included Abby Hill, Myra Ortiz, Waylon Hammerich, Colby Meideros, Kohl Jespersen, Ben Hess, and Trace Hammerich.



Lost River FFA



Henley FFA



Bonanza FFA

KDD Is For The Birds. Literally.



Klamath Drainage District

When federal regulators dried up Tule Lake and Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges for the first time in history, KDD lands offered birds food and nesting opportunities found nowhere else in the Klamath Basin. KDD landowners also sent 3,100 acre feet of water to Tule Lake and Lower Klamath Refuge between December, 2021 and August, 2022. To learn more about how KDD benefits raptors and birds of the Pacific Flyway, visit KlamathDrainageDistrict.org.

