

THE AGRICULTURE QUARTERLY

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ODA TEAMS UP *with their* WASHINGTON COUNTERPARTS to BATTLE ASIAN GIANT HORNETS

In 2021, the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) detected three active nests of the invasive Asian Giant Hornet (AGH) in Whatcom County. A team of entomologists from state, regional, and federal agencies worked to eradicate two AGH nests; the third nest is scheduled for eradication by mid-September. Entomologists located the nests in decaying alder trees: the first at the tree's base, the second about seven feet up, and the third about 20 feet up in the tree.

However, before any of these detections, WSDA hosted an Asian Giant Hornet field training day on August 18. The day's objective was to cross-train WSDA staff and other partners, including the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), on all aspects of WSDA's AGH Program from trapping to eradication.

Entomologists with ODA participated in on-the-ground training on capturing and tracking hornets and eradicating AGH nests. This training is vital for ODA to deploy and implement a rapid response if Oregon detects AGH.

Once training had concluded, WSDA invited ODA to search for a suspected nest near the Canadian border. Two teams of two staff members searched a heavily forested area in an attempt to locate the nest. A cross-agency group consisting of ODA and the US Department of Agriculture staff eventually discovered the first AGH nest of the season in the base of a dead alder tree in Whatcom County.

Once found, a feeling of jubilation went through everyone at the scene. However, that was short-lived as the group needed to work quickly and avoid getting stung as an AGH sting can be very dangerous. They set up a protective barrier in the area to ensure nobody would mistakenly enter the zone. Shortly after, WSDA contacted the property owner to inform them that an AGH nest was



Entomologist Dr. Jessica Rendon holds a vial with an Asian Giant Hornet. She was part of the ODA team that joined WSDA for a field training day.



Staff wear one-piece protective suits constructed of three layers: a 20-millimeter-thick slab of foam sandwiched between an inner and outer coating of soft plastic mesh.

found. The group then collected several specimens from hornets flying around the nest. Although ODA was unable to assist in the eradication of the nest, it was destroyed the following week by a small group of WSDA employees. The nest itself had nearly 1,500 hornets in various stages of development.

Back in Oregon, ODA is actively monitoring AGH traps across high-risk sites. Traps have been placed across the Willamette Valley. However, the department knows that this monitoring cannot be done in isolation, we need your help. If you believe you have found an AGH, notify ODA immediately.

- Try to take a photo if it is safe to do so and submit it online at <https://oda.fyi/HornetReport>. If you do not have internet access, you can make a report at 503-986-4636.
- Stay informed about AGH activities in the Pacific Northwest by joining WSDA's Asian Giant Hornet Watch Facebook group at www.facebook.com/groups/hornets.
- You can also learn more at agr.wa.gov/hornets, where you can find photographs of AGH and common look-alikes, and more.

ODA Budget Update and Revenue Forecast

The Oregon Legislature adjourned in late June, ending the mostly virtual 2021 session. A primary task of the Legislature is passing new state agency budgets covering the 2021-2023 biennium. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) staff have spent the summer working to implement the budget, adjust to changes, and recruit and hire employees for new positions.



ODA Director, Alexis Taylor

We are excited that ODA's 2021-23 budget continues the agency's existing funding levels while making some critical investments. New budgets take time to implement with the recruitment of talent, stakeholder engagement, and rulemaking to ensure the investments accomplish the mission tasked of ODA. A few budget items, such as the \$2 million allocated for meat processing infrastructure grants, are policy bills with specific instructions for implementation with timelines that run into the fall and early 2022.

A few of the investment highlights are (various fund types):

- \$1.5 million to the Food Safety Program
- \$1.9 million for Japanese beetle eradication
- \$1.46 million for water quality
- \$2.9 million to build out the Hemp Program
- \$2.9 million for state meat inspection
- \$1.02 million for native plant conservation and noxious weed control

On August 25, the State of Oregon released the third quarter Revenue Forecast. The economists project increased revenues within regular projections to continue for the biennium. The surprise came when the kicker economist predicted in May to grow from \$1.4 billion to \$1.9 billion, a credit that taxpayers will realize when they file for 2021 taxes. The economists contribute the higher-than-expected kicker to wage growth from high-income earners and far higher collections from businesses whose owners file personal income taxes rather than corporate taxes.

The Legislature is set to convene on September 20 for a Special Session to accomplish their constitutional task to redraw political representation districts based on the new census data. To find current information on redistricting, visit the **official legislative redistricting website**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alexis M. Taylor".

Alexis M. Taylor

ODA'S FIELD BURNING PROCESS

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) recognizes that there is heightened concern related to fires. When it comes to field burning, the department's Smoke Management team is committed to using the best available knowledge of weather conditions, field locations, and grower readiness to determine when and in which areas to field burn.

Since 1948, field burning has been an important crop management tool for farmers in Oregon. In western Oregon, field burning is limited to 15,000 acres in the north Willamette Valley and is managed by ODA with collaboration from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Oregon Seed Council. ODA works closely with the ODF Meteorology team, local fire districts, and growers to burn fields safely and with as little smoke impact to the public as possible.



Field burning in the Silverton Hills occurs from July through October each year. On September 16, ODA was nearly finished with the burning season, with fewer than 200 registered acres remaining. Growers must register their fields with the department and permits for burning are only issued when conditions are predicted to be favorable. Growers who participate are also required to have a trained team of flaggers, water tenders, and igniters present at each burn as well as an adequate water supply and firefighting equipment.

ODA uses several methods to inform growers and the public about open field burning activities. Weather forecasts are prepared and shared by ODF meteorologists twice daily. The forecast is emailed to subscribers at 9:00 a.m. and noon each day as well as broadcast via radio. Anyone can sign up to receive the forecast at <https://oda.fyi/FieldBurningForecast>.

On days when conditions are favorable for burning, ODA contacts each fire district where department staff may light test fires. Test fires are generally conducted on smaller fields (less than 50 acres) for the purpose of evaluating local conditions in districts where burning may occur. If test fires show that smoke is evacuating properly, open field burning may follow. Prior to test fire permits being issued, ODA sends out a general notice via email to subscribers. Anyone can sign up for these notices at <https://oda.fyi/TestFireNotice>.

Additionally, the department has both Facebook (@ORagriculture) and Twitter (@ORagriculture) accounts where posts, photos, and updates are shared about field burning. Finally, ODA hosts both a complaint line and an online form where those experiencing smoke may contact us and share their concerns. The number for the complaint line is 503-986-4709 and the online form is available at <https://oda.direct/SmokeComplaints>.

Western drought increases *the* potential for invasive species introductions *from* hay

Oregon and the western states are facing many challenges due to drought and wildfires. For Oregon's farmers and ranchers, the drought and burned areas are impacting the availability of livestock forage from pasture and rangelands and hay is in short supply.

Producers may be purchasing hay from outside their local areas, which creates a difficult situation. This hay can often be poor quality and could have invasive species as hitchhikers. Noxious weeds are the most common invasive species in hay, which can establish in fields and rangelands producing negative impacts for years into the future.

When it comes to noxious weeds, the old saying, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is appropriate. Anything that producers can do to prevent the introduction of invasive species such as noxious weeds is critical both ecologically and economically.

The following are suggested best management practices from USDA to help prevent the spread of weeds in hay.

- Ask where the hay was grown or donated from, if possible.
- Use certified weed-seed-free forage, if available.
- Feed hay in an area that can be easily monitored for new weed species.
- Document where new weed species are located, then follow-up with weed control and monitoring.
- Control weeds before they produce seed. If weeds have produced seed, remove plants and seeds, and dispose of them in the trash.
- Delay moving livestock through an area with a new weed species until it is removed or contained.
- Collect unknown plants and insect pests for identification.



Contact the Oregon Department of Agriculture, Noxious Weed Control Program staff or local county weed control program staff, if you have any questions on identification of weeds or best management practices.

Invasive and pest insects are also potential hitchhikers in hay.

- Please make sure your hay is not coming from areas where blister beetles may be abundant.
- If you are getting hay from areas where Asian giant hornets have been detected, such as British Columbia or northern Washington, they can be overwintering in the hay from January through March.
- If you are getting hay from the southeastern United States, please be aware of the red imported fire ant federal quarantine (<https://oda.fyi/ImportedFireAnts>).

If you see insects in your hay you want to have identified please contact the ODA Insect Prevention and Management Program staff for assistance at 503-986-4636.

The STREAM of INVASIVE SPECIES into OREGON

Oregon is the recipient of a constant stream of invading exotic invertebrates. Since we started keeping count in 2007, an average of over nine (9) exotic species are found established in Oregon every year. Some species are apparently benign, while some species, like the spotted wing *Drosophila*, will be pests creating damage far into the future. These pests rarely arrive under their own power and nearly always are assisted by humans as hitchhikers on plants, planes, firewood, or other items humans move around. So far in 2021, four new invasive species have been documented.

<u><i>Trachymela sloanei</i></u>	Australian Tortoise beetle
<u><i>Molorchus bimaculatus</i></u> <u><i>bimaculatus</i></u>	longhorned beetle
<u><i>Aceria fraxini</i></u>	Ash bead gall mite
<u><i>Agrilus diffcilis</i></u>	honeylocust borer

These new additions to Oregon include two species that were likely brought into the state on live plants and two that probably arrived on raw wood products. One is the honeylocust borer that may have been transported on firewood and is currently associated with significant honeylocust kills in eastern Oregon.



Australian tortoise beetle

What they all have in common is that they probably came to Oregon by human action and that it was preventable. We know that prevention is possible. This year there were two incidents reported and due to rapid intervention, efforts may have prevented the introduction of a root mealybug, *Rhizoecus americanus*, and brown widow to Oregon.

We suggest careful inspection of plants and rejection of infested material from out of state and especially from outside of the US. We encourage moving wood products with care. Make sure they have been properly treated and don't show signs of infestation. Oregon does have a firewood rule prohibiting the movement of untreated firewood from outside of the PNW. Firewood rule: <https://www.dontmovefirewood.org/map/oregon/>.

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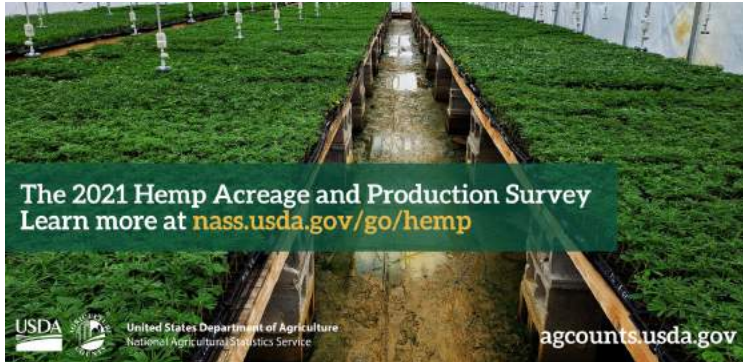


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NASS TO SEND 2021 HEMP ACREAGE and PRODUCTION SURVEY this FALL



This October, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will mail its first Hemp Acreage and Production Survey. The survey will collect information on the total planted and harvested area, yield, production, and value of hemp in the United States.

The Domestic Hemp Production Program established in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (2018 Farm Bill) allows for the cultivation of hemp under certain conditions. The Hemp Acreage and Production survey will provide needed data about the hemp industry to assist producers, regulatory agencies, state governments, processors, and other key industry entities.

Producers may complete the survey online at agcounts.usda.gov or they may complete and return the survey by mail using the return envelope provided.

Learn more about the survey at nass.usda.gov/go/hemp.

COMING SOON

HEMP RULES PUBLIC HEARING

SEPT 28, 2021 • 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
Virtual meeting by video/conference call
503-986-4652 | <https://oda.direct/Hemp>

CONFINED ANIMAL FEEDING OPERATIONS (CAFO) ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

OCT 14, 2021 • 1:30 PM - 3:30 PM
Virtual meeting by video/conference call
503-986-4792 | <https://oda.direct/Meetings>

OREGON STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE MEETING

NOV 30 - DEC 1, 2021
Virtual meeting by video/conference call
503-986-4554 | <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION COMMISSION (SWCC) QUARTERLY MEETING

NOV 16, 2021 • 3:00 - 5:00 PM (work session)
NOV 17 • 8:45 AM - 12:00 PM (public meeting)
Virtual meeting by video/conference call
503-986-4704 | <https://oda.direct/Meetings>

PESTICIDE ANALYTICAL & RESPONSE CENTER (PARC) BOARD MEETING

NOV 17, 2021 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Virtual meeting by video/conference call
503-986-4651 | <https://oda.direct/PARC>