



THE NORTHWEST NUTGROWER

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021



Jason Perrott's Orchard, Coburg



SUMMER TOUR 2021

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR AUGUST 4, 2021

Summer's largest hazelnut gathering is back for 2021! After being cancelled in 2020, the NGS Summer Tour is slated to take place on August 4th. Jason Perrott, current President of the Nut Growers Society, will host the orchard tour, which will be followed by the trade show at the Lane County Fairgrounds in Eugene. The Perrott farm is located in Coburg, situated next to I-5 just before crossing the McKenzie River into Eugene. This year's tour will feature the beloved traditional hallmarks of past Summer Tours:

- Orchard tours led by the Perrott Family to include irrigation, tiling and soil health topics
- Classes to include ODOT Rules and Regulations Refresher, ODA Pesticide Spray Credit Courses including PPE, and Stewardship Workshop
- Lunch time presentations and panel from OSU Hazelnut Researchers

This year the NGS Growers Handbook will be distributed at the orchard tour during check-in. The tour will begin at the Perrott orchard at 8:00

a.m. Lunch and the trade show will follow at the Lane County Fairground, which will open at 10:30 a.m.

Registration information will be in the NGS Summer Newsletter, which will be sent in late June. NGS staff is working closely with state and county regulations for COVID-19. Current regulation levels may affect the number of attendees. If you have any questions or are interested in signing up for a booth at the trade show, call the Industry Office at 503-582-8420 or email juli@oregonhazelnuts.org.

Oregon Hazelnut Commission Budget Hearing

MAY 19, 2021 • 8:00 A.M. • VIRTUAL VIA ZOOM

As required by ORS 576.416, the Oregon Hazelnut Commission will accept public comments on its fiscal year 2021-22 budget at the above date and time. In light of COVID-19, an electronic meeting will take place via Zoom. The draft agenda, which includes a link to join the meeting, and the Commission's proposed 2021-22 budget are available online at www.OregonHazelnuts.org/ohc. For accommodations for persons with disabilities, make a request at least 48 hours (Monday-Friday) before the meeting by contacting the Commission at 503.582.8420 or hazelnut@OregonHazelnuts.org.

Highlights of 2021 Winter Meeting #106



**Earl Bruck,
Grower of the Year**

The NGS Board had a large hurdle to overcome with Winter Meeting 2021. As with most facets of life in the last year, the board had to improvise and adapt on the fly.

Since gathering in person was not an option, the decision was made to host the Winter Meeting via livestream. While this was not the face-to-face method we are used to, it did give growers an opportunity to watch Winter Meeting from the comfort of their home or orchards.

The conference was business as usual, starting with the greeting and business meeting hosted by NGS President Jason Perrott. A series of informative sessions on everything from trade and tariffs to research updates followed. The sessions were pre-recorded, but all presenters were available on the livestream to answer real-time questions about their presentations.

This proved a fruitful format, with hundreds of members staying throughout the conference or checking in throughout the day. The board is thankful to the presenters and featured guests who collaborated to make this a successful event during a challenging time!

To access Winter Meeting 2021 videos, go to OregonHazelnuts.org and click on "Growers Corner." From there, click on the "Grower Resources" tab and scroll down to "Winter Meeting Videos". The agenda is also located here as a reference of the day.

Oregon Hazelnut Industry Office Hires New Executive Director



On March 1, 2020, Colleen Nihen began her tenure as the new executive director of the Oregon Hazelnut Industry Office. She will oversee

day-to-day operations for the Nut Growers Society, Hazelnut Marketing Board, Oregon Hazelnut Commission and Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries.

Her duties will include management for all organizations, leading and developing office staff, ensuring industry compliance and collaboration with organizations like ODA and USDA, assisting with marketing and promotional efforts, overseeing research and legislative issues, and representing the U.S. hazelnut industry.

Nihen takes over for Polly Owen, who retired after leading the industry office for 25 years.

"Colleen demonstrated the skills and passion for working with multiple-boards, agriculture and the ag community," stated Michelle Armstrong, Sales Agronomist for Wilbur-Ellis and Chair of the Proration Committee. "Colleen is a very driven individual who enjoys the challenge of learning new job skills, taking on new projects, and promoting a strong team environment. Our goal is for her to learn the valuable information that Polly possesses while developing into her role as the new executive director. Colleen and her staff will work together to build strong relationships with the amazing people who make up this industry, which will help us continue to grow."

Nihen is an Oregon native, growing up in Happy Valley and attending Portland State University. She recently returned to the Willamette Valley after founding and managing a marketing firm in Northern California. The agency helped brand and promote a variety of local

and nationwide corporations and non-profit organizations, including the Mountain Mandarin Growers Association, a coalition of Placer County ag growers, and several food processing engineering companies. Her work with ag and broad array of experiences as a business owner will enable her to provide fresh new insights on all aspects of industry activities.

Nihen, her husband, and their Springer Spaniel currently reside in Oregon City, which allows her to be close to extended family. The couple has three grown children who live near Sacramento, California and Seattle, Washington. In her spare time, Colleen enjoys spending time with family, going to concerts and plays, hiking, fishing and gardening.

Please join us in welcoming Colleen Nihen to the NGS and Oregon Hazelnut Industry Office. Feel free to contact her with questions or just to say hi. She may be reached at Colleen@OregonHazelnuts.org or 503.582.8420.

2021 Legislative Session Underway



The 2021 legislative session has been like no other session. Oregon's legislative leaders faced the same pressures

as others across the country—the pandemic significantly hampered the public from engaging directly with policymakers. While Oregon legislators attempted to remedy that issue through the use of virtual meeting platforms, these efforts ultimately have proven difficult due to limited bandwidth and countless technical difficulties, as well as an overly large legislative agenda.

Early this year, AOHI reviewed over 100 bills to assess potential threats and opportunities this legislative session. Unlike past sessions, there were few bills that would impact access to pesticides, biotechnology, and other production tools. However, producers were alarmed to see legislation that would mandate overtime pay in agriculture and bills that would prevent hazelnut growers from protecting their orchards from beaver depredation. Our members also were closely tracking conversations in the revenue committee about the possibility of tax increases for small businesses.

With over 2,000 bills introduced, this remote session has been difficult for all parties to navigate.

DISASTER RECOVERY

Disaster recovery is an overarching theme this session. The 2021 session was initially structured around providing COVID-19 pandemic relief and support for the families impacted by the devastating Labor Day wildfires. However, February's ice storm threw the state (and the hazelnut industry) a curveball, and legislators are now working across all fronts to mitigate natural disasters. The ice storm, which hit just one month into the session, caused damage and knocked out power for hundreds of thousands of Oregonians and stalled legislative business in Salem. When combined with the multiple COVID-19 outbreaks in the Oregon House, legislators have lost several weeks of work to disasters.

Legislative work hasn't been the only issue impacted by disasters. OR-OSHA, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA), and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) have been working in overdrive, drafting rules to respond to recent disasters. OR-OSHA is currently engaged in a rulemaking to protect workers from wildfire smoke and outdoor heat. OR-OSHA and OHA

also have been promulgating rules to protect Oregonians from the COVID-19 pandemic. DEQ is currently drafting rules for a new cap and reduce program to address the issue of global climate change. Each of these new rules creates more work and red tape for local businesses, who have been working around the clock to comply.

FEDERAL RELIEF

Earlier this spring, Congress passed a much-anticipated relief package, the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), directing over \$4 billion to the state and local governments to assist with recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Legislative leaders initially made available \$780 million to Oregon communities to fund projects to assist with recovery and build resiliency. However, after a week soliciting requests, legislators ultimately identified \$35 billion worth of requests for ARPA funding. That experience led legislative leadership to implement a new funding formula for ARPA dollars: every House member can spend \$2 million and every Senate member can spend up to \$4 million on district projects. ARPA funding decisions will be made this month with remaining projects looking to lottery bonding, general fund, and other sources of revenue.

OSU 2021 Pest Management Guide Online Now

The Oregon State University has the updated Pest Management Guide for 2021 located online at <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em8328>. Learn how to control insects, weeds and disease during each stage of hazelnut growth. The guide is now available on a new app to be able to sort and filter by crop stage, disease or pest on a web-based app.

Updated Mask Mandates for Ag Workers

Effective May 11, 2021, Oregon Health Authority issued updated statewide reopening guidance for wearing masks, face coverings or face shields. These guidelines relax the mandate for field workers, stating, "Statewide, masks, face coverings or face shields are required to be worn by all individuals at all times... unless the individual is outdoors and at a workplace or worksite and is at least six (6) feet of distance from others at all times." For definitions and the full list of recommendations, please visit <https://sharedsystems.dhsoha.state.or.us/DHSForms/Served/1e2288K.pdf>.

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