



SEPTEMBER 2008 NEWS



Contact Us

Washington State Hay Growers Association

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WSHGA Annual Conference and Trade Show

**January 14-15,
2009**

**Three Rivers
Convention
Center
Kennewick, WA**

President's Letter

It is fun to be a hay farmer again! I have enjoyed this season very much. I relate it to a roller-coaster ride. The anticipation of the season this spring was exciting and I jumped in and strapped myself down. Expenses kept going up at a fast rate but fortunately so did the price of hay. I was looking into blue skies until I saw a few black clouds after I started my swathers up. Sure enough mother nature sent rain my way and my stomach dropped. My ride was going down hill but it soon cleared up and up I was on the uphill side again. Second cutting came and went with no problems. Blue skies again! This ride was getting better and better! When third cutting came around I felt like I knew all the answers. I got greedy, put too much hay on the ground at once and was disciplined with high humidity and rain showers. This sudden turn of events through me for a loop and was a bit of a reality check. Next it was time to plant my new seeding hay. Between the cost of seed and the high cost of fertilizer, my fun ride wasn't quite so fun anymore. I'm still strapped in and on the uphill swing clicking away waiting for the next hurdle.

What am I trying to say? Everybody must pay the price to ride. Not everybody has the stomach for it. For those of us who choose to ride, it can be rewarding, though scary at times. Be prepared for every bump and curve. It is usually a long slow ride to the top and hopefully the backside going downhill will be quick and short. One last thing, there is no predicting mother nature!

This summer has gone by extremely fast. Your board has started to meet again. It is very tough to get farmers out of their fields and into a meeting room. I truly appreciate all the efforts that the board members make to take time out of their work schedule to benefit the association.

The Wilderness Hay Program has changed directions. I feel that our input has not been taken seriously by the Back Country Horsemen and the Noxious Weed Control Board so we are not endorsing the program fully. Their standards are not up to par to protect our forests. They are being way to lenient on which weeds they allow in their hay. We have the ability to produce weed free hay. We currently grow thousands of acres for the export market, our forests deserve the same standards.

The board will start working on the 2009 hay conference. If anyone has suggestions for improvements, meeting topics, speakers, or just a little advice, feel free to call me or one of your board members. Keep producing clean green Washington hay.

Shawn Clausen, President WSHGA, (509)750-9822

Special Conference Speaker - Dr. David Kohl

Sponsored by Northwest Farm Credit Services

The WSHGA is excited to have Dr. David Kohl as a special speaker at the 2009 WSHGA Conference and Trade Show. Dr. Kohl provides groups with cutting edge information in a dynamic format based upon his many years of academic research and working with commercial banks and agrilenders throughout the world.

Dr. Kohl has traveled over 5.7 million miles throughout his professional career! He has conducted more than 3,500 workshops and seminars for agricultural groups such as bankers, Farm Credit, FSA, and regulators, as well as producer and agribusiness groups. He has published four books and over 400 articles on financial and business-related topics in journals, extension, and other popular publications. Kohl regularly writes for Farm Journal, Top Producer, Ag Lender, Journal of Agricultural Lending, and Soybean Digest.

