

Official Publication Of The Washington State Hay Growers Association



October 2006

HAY NEWS

Hay Business Conference and Expo October 24-25

Hay & Forage Grower Magazine will present its fifth Hay Business Conference & Expo in Spokane, WA October 24-25, 2006. The Conference will be held in the Red Lion Hotel At The Park in that city.

Call 1-800-722-5334.

As an added incentive, everyone who registers to attend can receive a free contact listing of horse boarding stables. You can choose either Idaho, Oregon or Washington. These lists normally sell for \$125 each. More information at www.hayandforage.com

Members are always welcome to attend the WSHGA Board Meetings

The next meeting is:
Thursday, November 9th at
Noon - Best Western
Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake

Real Fun

It's been "Real & it's been Fun", but it ain't been "real fun". Is that how you feel this fall? This was the 4th year in a row that some of us have had to deal with rain on first cutting. I wonder what it would be like to put up 1st cutting with no rain. We'd probably need oxygen to get revived. The truck and equipment dealers would also need reviving as the hay farmers come through the door and actually have some money early in the year.

Each new season is just like a person with multiple personalities and you never know which one you're going to get. Most of us experienced the rain this year. Some hay fared better than others. I think we are just beginning to see how this year will shake out. There is still a lot of activity from buyers and sellers as we each figure out how well or how bad we did this year.

As we finish up this season and start winterizing, we begin to analyze 2007. From my view 07 will see better prices than 06. How so, start with Spring of 05, we had a carry-over of hay and the market was just O.K. Then came Spring of 06, low inventories, better prices, then Spring 07 will see very low inventories of hay, spring wheat for July over \$5/bushel, field corn over \$130/ton, hay stand 3+ years old=crop rotation. Timothy market looks good=crop rotation. Tired of getting rained on and working four harvests=crop rotation. Rotation, Rotation, Rotation! It's refreshing to have some other choices. Bottom line – excellent hay prices 07, excellent commodity prices O.K.

Speaking of horizons, look to the West "Export". Most of us have heard the saying that "all politics are local". Well today, all farming is global. Either you sell globally or buy globally. As examples, many farmers sell their alfalfa, wheat or apples to export markets then when you buy, many of our supplies are produced abroad or at the very least you are affected by the cost of oil. Globally we are competing more and more for the world supply of oil. This is global farming. So what can we do as individuals to maintain or take back our competitive edge? Easy answer, "get involved". If you are not a member of the WSHGA, join up, speak up, come to the conference in January 2007 at the Three Rivers Convention Center in Kennewick. If you're not a member of the Washington State Farm Bureau, join up, speak up and attend. Get involved in local government (county commissions). For farming to be fun, we need to make a profit. Are you having fun this year or are you just getting real?

Chep Gauntt, Past President

2007 WSHGA Conference and Trade Show January 17-18—Three Rivers Convention Center—PROGRAM

The WSHGA Board of Directors is busy working on the program for the Annual Conference and Trade Show to be held on January 17-18, 2007.

If you have any specific topics or issues that you would like to see addressed on the program, please contact the Association office at (509) 585-5460 or e-mail to snolan@agmgt.com.

We like to make every effort to get all topics or issues covered that are important to you. The 2007 Program will be available on-line once completed at www.wa-hay.org

Farm Succession and Estate Planning Workshops Scheduled for Eastern Washington and Oregon

Workshops designed to help area farm families write farm succession plans and do estate planning are scheduled this fall at several sites in eastern Washington and Oregon. “The average age of farmers in our region is 54 and many don’t have written farm succession plans,” said Diana Roberts, an agronomist for WSU Extension.

The class, sponsored by the Western Center for Risk Management Education, consists of two three-hour sessions offered about a month apart at the same location.

Topics for the first session will include the reasons for developing a farm succession plan, possible consequences of not having a plan, ways to communicate successfully with all the family members involved, what professional input is needed, and an overview of relevant state laws. Topics for the second session include understanding estate laws, holding a successful family meeting and getting through hurdles that arise in the process.

This workshop series is being offered across eastern Washington and Oregon this fall and winter by Washington State University Extension and the Oregon State University Extension Service. Following are the dates and locations. Workshop times and registration details will be forthcoming.

Thursday November 2 – Spokane County Extension Education Center

Wednesday November 29 - Walla Walla Regional Airport

Thursday November 30 - Hermiston Farm Fair

Thursday November 30 - The Dalles Community College

Wednesday December 13 – Ritzville Wheat Foundation Building

Thursday December 14 - Wenatchee

“We know that estate planning is a daunting process for families,” said Roberts. “Each family committed to developing a farm succession plan will receive the help of a trained coach who will work with them over the next year and will help them stay on task to complete the plan.”

For further information, contact Diana Roberts, WSU Extension, Spokane County, at 509-477-2167 or <robertsd@wsu.edu>. If you need special accommodation for a disability please contact us beforehand or we cannot guarantee availability.



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