

Official Publication Of The Washington State Hay Growers Association



October 2007

HAY NEWS

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING Members Welcome!

The WSHGA Board of Directors will be holding a program planning meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 17th at the Best Western Hallmark Inn, Moses Lake.

If you are unable to attend and have any specific topics or issues that you would like to see addressed, please send an e-mail to snolan@agmgt.com

This will be followed by the WSHGA Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO SHAWN CLAUSEN
FOR BEING ACCEPTED
INTO THE WASHINGTON
AGRICULTURE &
FORESTRY
LEADERSHIP
PROGRAM!**



President's Letter

Is this going to be the season we talk about for the next 30 years? The rain showers were more forgiving this year and hay prices are up! Good times are here in the hay industry and I see things only getting better for next year.

Your board has started to meet again and we are working on the January convention. Every hay farmer will find that it will be well worth your time to attend. If you have any suggestions on topics, call me or one of your board members.

There have been a few random hay stack fires in the Basin. Every farmer should double check your insurance policy and make sure you have accurate inventories. Also, be sure to put a fair value on your hay. Prices have risen since this Spring.

I wish everyone a happy harvest and hope everyone had a successful year!

President- Shawn Clausen

NAFA

What is NAFA? How does it affect me? How much does it cost? What do I get out of it? These are all good farmer questions. These are the very questions I ask when presented with a subject I'm unfamiliar with. NAFA is the National Alfalfa and Forage Alliance. The organization is about one and one-half years old. It resulted as a reorganization of the National Alfalfa Alliance to more broadly represent the alfalfa and forage growers that have no voice. The board has representation from seed companies, seed growers, industry and alfalfa growers (see www.alfalfa.org)

The purpose of NAFA is to be an advocate for alfalfa and to attain recognition for the third largest crop in the U.S. and to work with congressional people to allocate funds for research in feed, fuel, and carbon credits. NAFA has the ability to get alfalfa from no voice to visibility with a voice.

The effect of NAFA has specifically for the Washington alfalfa grower is a voice both nationally and internationally. There are only sixteen board members; only four state hay associations have a seat on the board. Washington is just one of four. Just as the WSDA looks to the Washington State Hay Growers for guidance, many in the Federal Government have begun to look to NAFA on many issues. As an example, NAFA is hosting a meeting in Denver on October 10, 2007 to try and help find a coexistence strategy for Roundup Ready growers and non RR growers, to facilitate movement of existing RR alfalfa while avoiding contamination of non RR alfalfa.

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NAFA continued..

Washington State Hay Growers has already contributed to NAFA, but NAFA needs more help to continue these efforts. NAFA would like to have more industry members, producer-growers, and other connected industries that benefit from alfalfa.

So, what do you get? You get national representation with Congress, with USDA, with seed companies, with seed growers, with equipment manufacturers; you get information back to your local organization to help in your operation. You get RECOGNITION.

By the way, did you have a good year?

Chep Guantt, Past President, WSHGA, Board Member, NAFA

Washington Ag in the Classroom

The WSHGA Board of Directors is proud to support the WA Ag in the Classroom with a donation to help publish and distribute Ag@School magazines into classrooms in the state of Washington for the 2007-2008 year. The purpose of Ag in the Classroom is to help young people gain a better understanding of agriculture, the source of our food and fiber and its impact on our economy and daily lives. Ag in the Classroom provides curriculum and reference materials to teachers in K-12.

Washington State Hay Growers Association

Annual Conference and Trade Show

January 16-17, 2008

Three Rivers Convention Center—Kennewick, WA



100 N. Fruitland, Suite B
Kennewick, WA 99336

www.wa-hay.org