

**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
TO MEET WITH HAY GROWERS ON THURSDAY, MARCH 8**
Will discuss BPA's irrigator energy buy-back program.

The Washington State Hay Growers Association will hold a meeting on **Thursday, March 8, at the Moses Lake National Guard Armory beginning at 1:00 p.m.** to discuss the Bonneville Power Administration's plan to offer cash to farmers who forego irrigating for the 2001 crop year. Rick Itami, manager for BPA's eastern power business area in Spokane, will be present to lay out the BPA program and answer questions. Any interested persons are invited to attend the meeting.

Itami has indicated that BPA will be rolling out their offer to buy down energy load by March 1. The program will work through BPA's public utility district customers who will administer the sign-up and

compensation of irrigators and other businesses who volunteer to curtail power usage. Local public utilities would deduct administrative fees and lost revenue due to lower loads and offer the balance in payment to those who participate in the curtailment program.

Reports of the program have certainly stirred up interest and controversy in the Columbia Basin and left more questions than answers. The Washington State Hay Growers Association board of directors contacted BPA and received their commitment to talk to growers in the Moses Lake area. If you have questions, this is your chance to get answers.

WSHGA ELECTS NEW OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

At the Annual Hay Conference, members of the Washington State Hay Growers Association re-elected several directors to serve an additional two years, and also added a familiar face to the board. Bill Ford, recently retired from the Franklin Co. Extension Office, was elected as a grower director. Bill played an important part in starting the Washington State Hay Growers Association and has served as a university advisor to the board for many years.

Keith Rupprecht Elected President

The new president of the Washington State Hay Growers has been on both sides of the hay industry; he currently produces hay, but was raised on a dairy farm in

Oregon's Willamette Valley. The Rupprechts have farmed near Warden since 1995 and, in addition to hay, grow beans and sublet potato acreage. Keith has been active in farmers' organizations throughout his adult life and currently serves on the Washington State Holstein Association board of directors. He is an elder in the church he attends with his wife, Marilyn, and four adult children.

Kevin Gray Elected Vice President

As President of the Columbia Basin Hay Growers Association in Benton and Franklin Counties, Kevin Gray has served on the board of directors of the Washington State Hay Growers for several years. Kevin grows hay

on a diversified farm near Eltopia and is active in a variety of farm organizations in the Basin.

ANNUAL HAY CONFERENCE A SUCCESS

Attendance was up and the mood was optimistic at the Washington State Hay Growers Association Annual Hay Conference, held at the DoubleTree Hotel in Pasco in January. The Conference location was changed from the TRAC Center for the first time in several years, and the growers and exhibitors seemed to like the change.

Harold Schild, CEO of Tillamook County Creamery Association, was the keynote speaker at the annual industry luncheon and informed the capacity crowd about the progress of the Tillamook cheese plant being built in Boardman, OR. Mr. Schild outlined the expansion philosophy of Tillamook and the general principles that have made the cooperative's name synonymous with quality. There are currently dairies being established near Boardman to supply the plant, which is under construction.

In addition to the Boardman cheese plant, Mr. Schild discussed his recent trip to the national dairy industry meeting in Florida. Coca Cola has recently announced a new milk product will be added to its product line of juice and soft drinks. The industry can expect Coca Cola to bring all its marketing expertise to bear in support of the milk product.

Service Awards

The Washington State Hay Growers Association also presented service awards to members and community leaders who exhibited exemplary service to the organization and the hay industry during the last year. Special presentations were made to:

John Kugler - Distinguished Service for his time and effort in organizing the program for the 2001 Hay Conference and for his long-time service as a director of WSHGA.

Craig George - Past President in appreciation of outstanding leadership and service.

Frank Brock - Honorary Membership in appreciation of this Franklin County Commissioner's support for the hay industry in the face of WSU budget

cuts.

William P. Ford - Honorary Membership in appreciation for his continued service to WSHGA and the hay industry.

The Washington State Hay Growers Association would especially like to acknowledge and thank the 2001 Hay Conference sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support:

Sponsors

Luncheon - Anderson Hay & Grain Co., Inc.

Trade Show Reception - DuPont

Coffee Breaks - Connell Grain Growers, Farm Credit Services, FFR Cooperative, Grant County Farm Bureau, Tarp-It, and Ward Rugh, Inc.

Milk Break - Wilcox Farms, Inc.

Pens - Agri-Pac and Quincy New Holland

Supporters - AT Plastics, Inc., OXBO International Corp., Pitchwood Products, Simplot Soilbuilders in Mesa, Moses Lake, Othello, Quincy, and Umatilla, and Smith Truck & Tractor

Exhibitors

Ag Engineering & Development

AT Plastics Inc.

Cenex Harvest States

Circle C Equipment

Continental Western

D & C Distributing

DuPont

Farm Credit Services

Firstline Seeds, Inc.

Great Plains Research Co., Inc.

Hunterwood Technologies

Inland Tarp & Cover

J. R. J. Services

Kralman Steel Structures

Kuo Testing Labs

L & H Seeds, Inc.

Monterey Chemical

NA-CHURS Plant Food Company

OXBO International Corp.

Pasco New Holland
Phiber Manufacturing Inc.

continued on next page

WSHGA Hay Conference exhibitors, cont.

Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc.
Pitchwood Products
Port of Pasco
Quincy New Holland, Inc.
Ray Brothers Seed Farms
RX Seeds, Inc.
SeedTec/Eureka
Smith Truck & Tractor
Soiltest Farm Consultants
Star Quality Samplers
Steffen Systems
Stinger, Ltd.
Systems West Inc.
Tarp-It
Tyco LLC/Schaeffer Manufacturing
United Agri Products
Willamette Financial Services

PEST ID CONTEST WINNERS

CONGRATULATIONS to the winners of the Pest Identification Contest held at the 2001 WSHGA Hay Conference. Dr. Don Miller of ABI Alfalfa, presented a comprehensive display of plant samples and photographs showing various alfalfa disease and insect pests with symptoms and characterization of each and then asked growers to identify the pest or disease condition. Prizes were donated by L & H Seeds, Evergreen Implement, Firstline Seeds, Pioneer Hi-Bred Int'l, United Agri Products, and Central Machinery Sales. The winners are:

First Prize

Dave Beach - one bag alfalfa seed
Ed Moore - John Deere Tractor/4-bottom plow
Bill Roseberg - one bag alfalfa seed
Monte Spence - one bag alfalfa seed

Second Prize

Ernest Petty - one bag alfalfa seed

Third Prize

Tom Garrison - one bag alfalfa seed
Mike Jensen - Case baler
Kevin Kregger - one bag alfalfa seed
Earl Petty - Case tractor w/ loader

**WASHINGTON/OREGON (COLUMBIA
BASIN) WEEKLY HAY - February 23, 2001**

Tonnage: 8,695 Week Ago: 7,550 Year Ago: 4,140

Compared to last week, Good and Premium alfalfa trading steady for quality and condition of hay. Trading moderate, demand mixed, mostly moderate for hay with no faults on mostly light offerings. Premium alfalfa dairy hay and export slicer hay trading mostly steady for quality of hay. Trading moderate, demand light from dairies as they buy on as need basis and moderate from export slicers for top end hay. Good alfalfa, low end dairy and cuber hay steady, with some movement to cow/calf operations. Trading slow to moderate, demand light to moderate on light to moderate offerings. Low and Fair alfalfa trading steady to weak as a few producers clean up remaining inventory. Trading slow to moderate, demand good on very light offerings. Feedstore and horse hay trading mostly steady with good movement to out of state accounts. Trading and demand moderate on light to moderate offerings. Continue to see very good movement on pre- contracted hay to exporters, dairies and feedstores. Starting to see some demand from the East Coast and the Mid East states for horse hay.

Quality/Bale Size	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Export Alfalfa sales to move in 60 days, tops off:				
Premium 2-tie	90	110.00	110.00	
Good 3-tie	1200	85.00	85.00	
Alfalfa, domestic sales use/tops off:				
Premium 2-3 tie	310	95-105.00	102.10	
Premium mid	1400	100-102.50	101.96	
Good 2-3 tie	120	85-90.00	86.25	
Good mid/ton	2250	80-90.00	84.78	
Fair 2-3 tie	300	70.00	70.00	
Fair mid/ton	240	70-75.00	72.50	

2,785 tons of other hay reported. Good-Premium alfalfa

for export, light rain damage 4th cut 87.00 FOB covered 3 tie bales. Premium alfalfa, slight rain damage 4th cut, ADF 27+ 100.00 FOB ton bales covered. Good-Premium alfalfa, slight rain damage 4th cut 90.00 FOB covered 3 tie. Good alfalfa, light rain damage mostly 4th cut, ADF 30+ 80.-90.00 FOB, 2-3 tie and ton bales covered. Fair alfalfa, rain damage, ADF 32+ 70.-80.00 FOB covered ton bales. Low alfalfa, weeds, grass and or heavy rain damage, ADF 35+ 65.-70.00 FOB. Tops and bottoms 65.-80.00 FOB, depending on damage.

USDA Market News

February 2001

YAKIMA VALLEY HAY CHAPTER TO BE FORMED

In recognition of the quality hay grown in the Yakima Valley and the interest of Yakima area hay growers and hay industry suppliers, the Washington State Hay Growers Association will hold a formation meeting for a local Yakima area hay growers chapter at **El Ranchito Restaurant in Zillah** (1319 E. 1st Ave., 829-5880) on **Tuesday, March 6, 2001, beginning at 11:00 a.m.** The purpose of the meeting is two-fold:

1. To form an active Yakima Valley hay growers chapter to serve producers in the Yakima area, and
2. To provide information about the activities of the Washington State Hay Growers Association as we strive to promote *World Class Washington Hay* and serve as the voice of the Washington hay industry.

The Washington State Hay Growers Association

appreciates its Yakima area members and their participation in our Annual Hay Conference, and wants to extend the benefits of a locally active chapter of hay growers into the Yakima Valley. Local hay grower chapters have historically been very effective in influencing their locally elected officials and conduct a variety of activities, including:

- C Educational meetings addressing local issues
- C Hay king contests at local county fairs
- C Scholarship programs for local students.

Participation and input during this formational meeting is very important. Leadership will be elected and a Yakima Valley chapter board of directors will be established to direct the activities of your local chapter. The directors of the Washington State Hay Growers Association will be in attendance to provide assistance and report on activities of the state association. Everyone is invited to stay for the monthly WSHGA board meeting immediately following the formation meeting.

For more information, please call Wendy at the WSHGA office at (509) 547-5538.