



HAY NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON STATE HAY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

www.wa-hay.org

2002 HAY CONFERENCE A SUCCESS! JANUARY 22 - 23 AT DOUBLETREE HOTEL IN PASCO

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 was held at the DoubleTree Hotel for the second year and the trade show and meeting rooms were full. The Washington State Hay Growers Association appreciates the continued support of WSU Cooperative Extension's John Kugler, Tim Woodward, and Steve Fransen in developing an excellent program.

Tom Myrum, Executive Director of the Washington State Water Resources Association based in Olympia, was the keynote speaker at the Conference Luncheon on Wednesday, January 23. Water rights is a very important topic for Washington hay growers and the Association was extremely pleased to bring one of the premier experts in our area to address the future of water rights. The Water Resources Association coordinates irrigation districts in Washington. Tom discussed several court cases and other ongoing legal action that will affect water and water rights, as well as upcoming legislation and regulatory activities.

Glen Bair, a talented cowboy poet from Ephrata, entertained the hay growers and industry friends at the Conference Luncheon on Tuesday, January 22.

Other convention highlights included a presentation by Rodney Todd, OSU Extension Agent from Klamath Falls, OR, who discussed the devastating impact of the water shut-off on the Klamath Basin Project and his expectations for the future. John Dodd of FFR Cooperative instructed hay growers on the opportunity for increasing their farm revenue with the addition of grass seed crops. The popular Steve Orloff, University of California Extension, spoke to Washington hay growers about the keys to profiting from alfalfa production.

Convention attendees also enjoyed playing the trade show game for cash. WSHGA awarded \$100 each to Alma Barajas of Othello, Bob Eckenberg of Mattawa, Daniel Petty of Eltopia, and Tim Tallman of Boardman, OR. Several trade show exhibitors also offered fabulous door prizes, including Seattle Supersonics tickets from Tarp-It and a powered parachute ride from Magic Carpet.

Service Awards

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

Elvin Kulp - Distinguished Service for his 40 years of service to agriculture in the Columbia Basin through his work with WSU Cooperative Extension. Elvin currently serves as Area Extension Agent Chair in Grant and Adams Counties and has been instrumental in the success of the Washington State Hay Growers Association in keeping and replacing key forage extension specialist positions in the Columbia Basin.

Lew Lundy - Distinguished Service in appreciation of his outstanding past leadership on the WSHGA board of directors and his countless hours of service in developing and implementing the WSHGA website.

Gary Chandler - Distinguished Service and Honorary Membership in appreciation of his dedication and support of agriculture during his service in the State Legislature. WSHGA knows Chandler will continue to work on behalf of agriculture and small

business interests in his new position with the Association of Washington Business.

*Continued on next page
WSHGA Hay Conference, cont.*

The Washington State Hay Growers Association would especially like to acknowledge and thank the 2002 Hay Conference sponsors and exhibitors for their generous support:

Sponsors

General Conference Sponsor - Anderson Hay & Grain Co., Inc.

Tuesday Luncheon - Eckenberg Farms, Inc.

Wednesday Luncheon - Anderson Hay & Grain Co., Inc.

Program Sponsor - Simplot Soilbuilders

Trade Show Reception - Du Pont

Coffee Breaks - Cenex Harvest States/Connell Grain Growers, Farm Credit Services, FFR Cooperative, LeMaster & Daniels, Tarp-It, Ward Rugh, Inc., Washington Trust Bank, and Wilbur-Ellis.

Registration - Agri-Pac/Callahan Farms

Supporters - Evergreen Implement, Grant Co. Farm Bureau, and Inland Tarp & Cover

Exhibitors

ABI Alfalfa - "America's Alfalfa"

Agri-Service Northwest, Inc.

Alpine Custom Buildings, Inc.

AT Plastics Inc.

Barenbrug USA

Cascade Hybrids, Inc.

Cenex Harvest States/Connell Grain Growers

Circle C Equipment

Continental Western

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Farm Credit Services

Grassland West

Great Plains Research Co., Inc.

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Ray Brothers Seed Farms

S.S. Eq., Inc. (dba Quincy New Holland and Pasco New Holland)

Schaeffer Manufacturing

SeedTec/Eureka

Simplot Soilbuilders

Smith Truck & Tractor

Soiltest Farm Consultants

Steffen Systems

Stinger, Ltd.

Tarp-It

UAP Seeds

The conference attendees voted on the first annual Best of Show award for WSHGA trade show exhibitors, and awarded the prize to L & H Seeds, Inc. L & H Seeds, Inc., will receive a \$50 credit toward advertising in the WSHGA Hay Directory.

IDAHO CONGRESSMEN OFFER BILL TO INCLUDE
HAY GROWERS IN FARM STORAGE LOAN
PROGRAM

Idaho Representatives Mike Simpson and C.L. "Butch" Otter introduced legislation that would provide access for farmers and ranchers who want to build hay storage facilities to a federal loan program now in place for other agricultural commodities. "Put simply, we are trying to make our federal farm programs more available and helpful to a greater number of farmers and ranchers," said Simpson. "This bill will help alleviate farmer and rancher concern by giving producers more financing options in constructing, expanding, or improving their hay storage facilities."

"This legislation would provide assistance to individuals who want to build storage so producers can store the hay in years when it isn't needed, and have it available in years like this one when there is a great need," said Otter. "Other commodities are already eligible for these types of

loans and I hope we can pass this legislation so that hay will also be included.”

The USDA’s farm Storage Facility Loan program is a low-cost financing program available to any landowner, landlord, operator, producer, leaseholder, sharecropper, or tenant who wants to build, expand, or improve a storage facility. The program is available for up to 85% of the net cost, not to exceed \$100,000 for each borrower. The maximum term of the loan is 7 years and the interest rate is at the rate equivalent to the rate of interest charged on U.S. Treasury securities of comparable maturity on the date the loan is approved. For more information, visit the Farm Service Agency website at www.fsa-usda.gov.

**WASHINGTON/OREGON (COLUMBIA BASIN)
WEEKLY HAY - JANUARY 25, 2002**

Tonnage: 4,120 Week Ago: 1,870 Year Ago: 3,070

Compared to last week, Good and Premium Alfalfa for export not fully established. Demand light to moderate on very light offerings of hay with no faults. Premium Alfalfa dairy hay trading weak. Trading slow, demand light at current asking levels on light to moderate offerings. Fair and Good Alfalfa, some with faults trading mostly steady for condition of hay. Trading slow, demand moderate on mostly light offerings. Feedstore and horse sales mostly steady. Demand light to moderate on light offerings.

Quality/Bale Size	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Domestic Alfalfa sales, tops off:				
Prem. mid/ton	200	115.00	115.00	
Good mid/ton	1220	100.-105.00	101.31	
Fair mid/ton	210	100.00	100.00	

2,490 tons of other hay reported. Premium Alfalfa for export with a trace of wheat 125.00 FOB covered 2-tie bales. Premium Alfalfa, slight faults for export 120.00 FOB covered 3-tie bales. Premium Alfalfa, slight rain damage, ADF 27+ 115.00 FOB 2-tie and big bales covered. Good Alfalfa, light rain damage, ADF 30+ 100.00-110.00 FOB 3-tie and big bales covered. Fair Alfalfa, weeds, grass and or rain damage, ADF 32+ 95.00-100.00 FOB 2-3-tie and big bales, some tarp cover and some not covered. Low Alfalfa, heavy weeds, grass and or rain damage, ADF 35+ 90.00-95.00 FOB 2 tie and big bales. Wheat straw 37.00 FOB big bales. Feedstore or horse accounts sales covered, mostly 2-3 tie bales: Good to Premium Orchard 135.00-150.00 FOB. Good Orchard, some with light rain 120.00-130.00 FOB. Good to Premium Orchard/Alfalfa blend 130.00-140.00 FOB.

Good Orchard/Alfalfa blend, some with light rain 120.00 FOB. Good to Premium Timothy/Alfalfa 145.00 FOB. Good to Premium Alfalfa 120.00-130.00 FOB. Good Alfalfa, some with light rain 100.00-110.00 FOB. Wheat straw 45.00 FOB.

USDA Market News

WSHGA SEEKS FURTHER INPUT

The Washington State Hay Growers Association has been consulted by alfalfa seed growers in the Warden area who have been offered contracts to grow GMO alfalfa seed. The seed growers were concerned about potential impacts on alfalfa hay growers and have requested input from the Washington State Hay Growers Association.

The Washington State Hay Growers Association encourages you to get all the information you can about GMO crops. Several programs have been featured around the Columbia Basin with speakers who have addressed GMO alfalfa. In addition, your local extension agent should be able to assist you with further information. After you have the information to develop an informed opinion, please provide your comments and opinions to the Association. We want your input.

**USDA REQUESTS COMMENT ON EXPANDING
CRP ELIGIBILITY TO INCLUDE PERENNIAL CROPS**

The public has until February 4, 2002, to comment on a proposed change to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Conservation Reserve Program which would allow vineyards and orchard, berry and hay lands to be enrolled in CRP programs. The proposed rule change applies to the federal-state cooperative Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

“Producers have asked us for an expansion of the eligibility criteria for the program for a couple of years now,” said James F. Fitzgerald, USDA Farm Service Agency State Director. “It gives producers of some perennial crops another conservation tool. Currently the programs are only eligible for land that is annually tilled.” Director Fitzgerald is on the agenda for the February 19, 2002, WSHGA board of directors meeting, where he will discuss the plans for adding perennial crops to CREP.

WARNING! TARP STEALING ON RISE
WSHGA had heard numerous reports that tarps are being heisted throughout hay country. Growers are encouraged to watch closely and ask for their neighbor’s help. Contact your tarp dealer for more information.

In Washington, the goal of CREP is to enhance habitat for threatened and endangered salmon and steelhead. Continuous CRP is used for specific conservation practices such as filter strips, field windbreaks, and conservation buffers. CREP and Continuous CRP are both voluntary programs in which producers are compensated for taking the land out of production and maintaining the land under 10- to 15-year contracts.

JANUARY 2002

SCHOESLER NAMED TOP REPUBLICAN ON HOUSE AGRICULTURE AND ECOLOGY COMMITTEE

Washington State Representative Mark Schoesler has been named ranking Republican on the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee. The ranking committee member position was vacated last fall by Moses Lake Republican Gary Chandler, who resigned from his legislative seat to take a position as lobbyist for the Association of Washington Business in Olympia. Schoesler is a long-time wheat farmer and rancher from the Ritzville area.

Schoesler is a veteran fifth-term lawmaker and will continue to hold a seat on the Capital Budget Committee. His new responsibilities as the Agriculture and Ecology Committee's ranking Republican required Schoesler to choose between the Ag Committee assignment and his role as House Republican whip, a key position on the caucus leadership team. "It's been an honor to serve as a member of leadership and to have a role in developing caucus strategy and policy decisions, but I believe my legislative skills and real-life experience as a farmer and rancher will be better used in a leadership position on Agriculture and Ecology," said Schoesler. "A healthy and viable agriculture industry is vital to the economy statewide, and this committee is where agriculture and ecology interests come together."

The deep snow that has already cloaked the Cascade Mountains gives hope to Central and Eastern Washington farmers whose summer water supply depends on winter snowfall, and whose water supply was severely reduced by drought in 2001. However, most farmers agree it will take two to three years of good water years to recover from the economic and production impact of the 2001 drought.

Heavy October precipitation started to turn things around for the 2002 water year, which started October 1, 2001. October precipitation was 191 percent of normal and the reservoirs are slowly filling. Additional heavy snow in the Cascade Mountains bodes well for getting water into reservoirs that didn't fill at all last year.

**EASTERN WASHINGTON GETS ENCOURAGING
NEWS OF ABOVE AVERAGE PRECIPITATION**