

**BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION
AGREES TO PURCHASE IRRIGATION WATER FROM COLUMBIA BASIN FARMERS**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) has announced the availability of a Voluntary Energy Land Reduction Program for irrigators receiving water from irrigation districts in the Columbia Basin Project. The purpose of the program is to contract with irrigators to forego irrigation through September 30, 2001, which is intended to result in reduced electrical power load for primary irrigation pumping at Grand Coulee Dam and increase power production at Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph Dams. BPA is offering to pay \$330 per acre for each eligible irrigation acre not irrigated under the program.

BPA has contracted with East Columbia Basin, South Columbia Basin, and Quincy-Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts to administer the application process for the program. Farmers lined up outside irrigation district offices for hours before the announced application acceptance times, but later discovered the acres offered have not yet reached the maximum allowed in the program. East and South Districts are each allotted 25,000 acres for the sign-up, while the Quincy District allotment has been increased to almost 34,000 acres.

Farmers expressed interest in the first BPA power buyout offered through local electrical utilities, but rejected the plan based on the \$75 per megawatt offer they considered to be too low. WSHGA hosted a standing-room-only crowd at the National Guard Armory in Moses Lake for a meeting with BPA officials to discuss their efforts to reduce power load during the irrigation season. The meeting raised many questions and suggestions, but BPA officials had few details to share.

The Voluntary Energy Land Reduction program

criteria will exclude some farmers from participating and Black Sands Irrigation District has also been excluded from the program due to its use of ground water recaptured from the other three Columbia Basin Districts.

Farmers who are accepted and agree to participate in the program must stop irrigating crops on the acreage. Dry cropping is permitted and CRP land is not eligible for the program. Farmers must retain their employees or provide compensation, benefits, and other expenditures related to employee layoffs as a result of the reduced irrigation activities. All irrigation district assessments, rates, tolls, charges or contract payments must be paid in full.

In return for the reduced energy load provided by foregoing irrigation, accepted farmers will receive payments as follows:

May 1 - \$110 per acre in the program
July 1 - \$110 per acre in the program
October 1 - \$110 per acre in the program

**TRI-STATE HAY MEETING
TO BE HELD IN PENDLETON**

The Washington State Hay Growers Association will participate in a tri-state hay meeting to be scheduled in Pendleton, OR, in April with members of the Idaho Hay Association and the Oregon Hay and Forage Association.

For information on the meeting contact the WSHGA office at 509/547-5538.

YAKIMA COUNTY HAS
NEW HAY GROWERS CHAPTER

The WSHGA board of directors met with interested Yakima County growers on March 6 and established a new hay growers chapter in Yakima County. The local chapter will be able to serve Yakima-area producers with local educational meetings addressing Yakima area issues and influence on county and local government. The chapter may later start a local scholarship program or establish a Yakima-area hay king contest.

The Yakima County members who attended the meeting have elected officers and directors for the new hay chapter:

President: Mike Byrd, Selah
Vice President: Gary Kirckof, Glead
Secretary/Treasurer: Robin Robert, Sunnyside
Director: Tony Harris, Mabton

For more information about the Yakima County hay growers chapter, please contact the WSHGA office at 509/547-5538.

JOHN KUGLER HIRED
TO FILL ADAMS/GRANT
FORAGE EXTENSION POSITION

Washington State University Cooperative Extension has announced the recent hiring of John Kugler as Extension Forage Specialist in the Grant County Extension Office. He assumed his responsibilities for Grant and Adams Counties on March 1, 2001.

John Kugler is familiar to Washington hay growers. He was a well-respected researcher at WL Research in Warden for many years until the research lab

was closed in the wake of the AgriBioTech bankruptcy and liquidation.

John has served on the board of directors of the Washington State Hay Growers Association for many years and chairs the Association's research committee. In addition, Dr. Kugler chaired the convention program committee for the highly successful 2001 Hay Conference held this past January. The WSHGA board of directors voted March 6 to appoint Dr. Kugler to a university advisor position.

To congratulate John, contact him at the Grant County Extension Office at 509/754-2011 x413.

TIPS FOR HAY CONTRACTS

More and more hay growers are utilizing written contracts in the sale of their hay. While some people still prefer to do business with a handshake, written contracts do provide legal recourse to participants if the conditions of the agreement are not met by either party. The Washington State Hay Growers Association encourages its members who choose to use hay contracts to include the following items:

- C Names and contact information for the buyer and the seller.
- C Tonnage covered by the contract.
- C Type and quality of the hay under contract.
- C The price and payment schedule for the hay sold.
- C Current location of the hay and date the hay will be moved from that location.
- C Who bears responsibility for hauling.
- C What scale will be used to weigh the hay.
- C What procedures will be followed on providing weight documentation and certificates.
- C How the hay will be covered and who is responsible for covering it.
- C Who is responsible for fire insurance or damage if the hay is uninsured.
- C How and where contract disputes will be settled.

Bankers also prefer that your business be

conducted by written contracts and may have additional suggestions.

**NEW HAY QUALITY DESIGNATIONS
FOR MARKET NEWS REPORTS**

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service has adopted hay quality designations for use in the nationwide Market News reporting program, including the Washington/Oregon (Columbia Basin) weekly hay report generated by the Market News Service in Moses Lake. The revised guidelines establish specific objective measurements of value attributes for each quality category of alfalfa and grass hay. The new designations will achieve national uniformity of price information that is reported via the Market News price reports.

New alfalfa and alfalfa/mix hay testing guidelines

Quality	Relative Feed Value (RFV)	Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF)
Supreme	Over 180	Under 27
Premium	150 - 180	27 - 30
Good	125 - 150	30 - 32
Fair	100 - 125	32 - 35
Low	Under 100	Over 35

New grass hay testing guidelines

Quality	Percent Crude Protein
Premium	Over 13
Good	9 - 13
Fair	5 - 9
Low	Under 5

Notes: Quantitative factors are approximate, and many factors can affect feeding value. RFV is based on 100 percent dry matter. Calculated value based on American Forage and Grasslands Council formula. End usage may influence hay price or value more than testing results.

Revised hay quality designations include:

Supreme - Very early maturity, pre-bloom, soft fine stemmed, extra leafy, high nutritive content, excellent color, and free from damage.

Premium - Early maturity (pre-bloom in legumes and pre-head in grass), extra leafy, fine stemmed, high nutritive content, green color, and free from damage.

Good - Early to average maturity (early to mid-bloom in

legumes, early head in grass), fine to medium stemmed, free of damage other than slight discoloration.

Fair - Late maturity (mid to late bloom in legumes, head in grass), moderate or below leaf content, coarse stemmed, with possible light damage.

Low - Very late maturity (mature seed pods in legumes, mature heads in grass), coarse stemmed, damaged.

WASHINGTON/OREGON (COLUMBIA BASIN)

Tonnage: 1,980 Week Ago: 4,790 Year Ago: 3,650

Compared to last week, export trading at near standstill for the week on very light offerings and moderate demand. Premium alfalfa dairy hay steady for quality test and condition of hay. Trading slow, demand moderate on very light offerings. Fair and Good alfalfa trading steady for quality and condition of hay. Trading slow, demand good on very light offerings. With well over 80 percent of the Columbia Basin hay growers sold out or committed on hay to be delivered, demand has started to pick up and available hay supplies for sale are extremely light and mostly hay with some faults.

Quality/Bale Size	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Export Alfalfa sales to move in 60 days, tops off:				
Premium 2-tie	180	95.-105.00	101.67	
Good mid/ton	700	85.-92.50	88.75	

1,100 tons of other hay reported. Good timothy 3rd cutting, 3 tie bales 105.00 FOB. Premium alfalfa, slight rain damage, ADF 27+ 90.00 FOB covered. Fair to Good alfalfa, rain damage, ADF 32+ 75.00-80.00 FOB covered.

Feed store or horse accounts sales covered: Good to Premium orchard grass, 2 tie 75-100 lb. bale 135.00 FOB. Good to Premium orchard and alfalfa blend, 2 tie 75-100 lb. bale 115.00-125.00 FOB. Good orchard and alfalfa blend, 2-3 tie 75-125 lb. bale 115.00 FOB. Good to Premium, mostly alfalfa 2 tie 90-110 lb. bale 110.00-120.00 FOB. Good alfalfa and alfalfa and grass 2-3 tie 90-125 lb. bale 90.00-105.00 FOB. Wheat straw 45.00-50.00 FOB 2-3 tie bales.

M^{arch} 2001

LEADERSHIP PROGRAM SEEKING APPLICANTS FOR TWO-YEAR FELLOWSHIPS

The Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation is actively seeking qualified candidates for 30 fellowships in Class XXIV of its leadership program. People involved in the agriculture, forestry, or fisheries industries are encouraged to apply. The final deadline for applications is June 15, 2001.

Each year, 30 people from throughout the state are selected to participate in the two-year leadership development program which serves to broaden skills, enrich experiences, and increase knowledge. The mission of the program is to develop leaders for the natural resource industries, strengthening the industries, communities, and organizations in the process. The Washington State Hay Growers Association provides annual monetary support to the

program to help accomplish these goals.

The goals are accomplished through attendance at 16 seminars over the course of a two-year period. Fourteen three-day seminars focus on such topics as communications, economics, state government, media relations, social problems, the criminal justice system, the environment, and health care, as well as other pertinent issues. The first year of the program features a ten-day visit to Washington, DC, to better understand the federal government process. During the second year, a three-week visit to selected foreign countries provides participants with exposure to governments, economic systems, cultures, and practices that are important to international trade. In-depth discussions with top-level officials highlight the international experience.

The Washington Agriculture and Forestry Education Foundation covers all costs of the program with the exception of meals, in-state transportation, and membership in the Foundation. Interested candidates should write to the Foundation at P. O. Box 13348, Spokane, WA 99213, or contact the office by phone at 509/926-9113.