



# HAY NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON HAY GROWERS ASSOCIATION

## NEXT WSGHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Tuesday, May 11  
Bob's Café at the Inn  
Moses Lake, WA  
Contact the office or your representative if you have items you would like presented at the meeting.

## NORTHEAST GROWERS FIELD DAY

*Sat., May 8*

### Session One:

8:00 am – 10:00 am  
Meet at Williams Valley Grange on the corner of Swenson & Burroughs near Deer Park.

**Topic:** Analysis of different pesticide applications for control of common weeds. Pesticide Credits are available for attendance at this session

### Session Two:

10:00 am – 12:00 noon  
Meet at the Lentz Farm, 4513 Belstar @ Clayton  
Topic: Small Baler Clinic. We will have representatives from John Deere, Freeman and New Holland to conduct clinics on repair and upkeep on all three balers.

### Contact:

Lorren Hagen  
509-935-4796

## LET US KNOW!!

If you have an event on the calendar or an item of news for the hay growers, please let us know. The newsletter will be mailed on a bi-monthly basis and is simplified in it's format to be less expensive and more directed toward news that growers need and want. Help us accomplish that by giving us your feedback and input.

## WASHINGTON HAY ACREAGE DECLINES IN 2004

Recent reports from hay groups throughout Eastern Washington are coming in and indicate a significant decrease in the projected 2004 hay acreage in the state. While early USDA estimates put the total hay acreage in the state at 800,000 acres, a decrease of only 10,000 acres from 2003, grower groups in the Columbia Basin and the northeast part of the state are all reporting decreases that indicate a much higher drop in the acreage this year. The Yakima valley is reporting that acreage will likely stay about the same or even increase, but the

ground the hay is going on is marginal and the quality there may not be very good. There is also some concern regarding the recent announcement of a possible water shortage in the valley. In addition, USDA is reporting a significant drop in California acreage of at least 90,000 acres with others predicting an even higher decrease there. Idaho is reporting a slight increase and Oregon a slight decrease in 2004 acres.

The main factor contributing to the decrease is a sharp increase in prices being paid for corn and wheat. Some

hay growers are opting to take hay acreage out and plant it to corn or spring wheat. In some areas there are water concerns which may affect growers decisions to plant hay and are certain to affect late season yields. And, there are reports of current inventories moving to market right now.

Growers in most areas are reporting that they will begin harvest earlier this year because of the early warm weather. Hay quality should be excellent throughout the year. The only concern is whether or not enough hay can be produced to meet the demand.

## DR. STEVE FRANSEN ON THE MEND

As most of you are aware, Dr. Steve Fransen, WSU-Prosser suffered the misfortune of falling off of a ladder at his home last fall. The result was four broken vertebrae in his neck, four broken vertebrae in his back, three broken ribs and a punctured lung.

There followed four long months in a "turtle shell" cast. Many of you last saw him in that condition as he braved the elements and the inevitable discomfort to come to the Hay Conference in

January. Since then his indomitable spirit has continued to move him toward recovery. The turtle shell is gone and he is going through physical therapy several times a week and getting better by the day. He is spending two half days (Tues. & Thurs.) at his office where he is beginning to wade though 3,000 to 4,000 e-mail messages and generally trying to catch up.

The doctors at Harborview Medical Center are impressed with his rate of recovery,

something that Dr. Fransen attributes to being in good shape at the time of the accident, care by great doctors and nurses, and, most importantly, wonderful support from family, friends and co-workers.

He wants all to know of his appreciation for their cards, calls and prayers and that he is looking forward to being able to participate fully with the hay growers again soon.

**Our best wishes,  
Dr. Fransen**

## HAY AND FORAGE GROWER MAGAZINE

If you are not subscribed to Hay and Forage Grower Magazine or the e-Hay newsletter, you might want to try it. It often provides useful information on growing hay that can be applied to the Columbia basin. It is free and you can sign up on line at <http://www.hayandforage.com/> for the magazine and [http://enews.primediabusiness.com/enews/hayandforagegrower/ehay\\_weekly/current](http://enews.primediabusiness.com/enews/hayandforagegrower/ehay_weekly/current) for the newsletter.

## WSHGA BOARD HIRES NEW MANAGEMENT FIRM

Effective March 15, 2004, Ag Management, Inc. in Kennewick, WA was hired as the management firm for the Washington State Hay Growers Assn. to replace the existing agreement with the Maurer Group. Ag Management got the nod because of its focus on agriculture issues and the Ag related experience of owner Rod Christensen and account representatives Matt Harris and Sheri Nolan. All three will be working on the hay grower's account in different capacities. Christensen will serve as the Executive Secretary. Rod Christensen indicated that among the top priorities will be timely publication of the directory, bi-monthly newsletters with pertinent information, renovation and ongoing updates to the website, and a convention that focuses on grower interests and industry participation. They will also continue to work to improve research opportunities and the field trial program.

Please make note of the following address and phone number changes:

**Washington State Hay Growers Association**  
100 No. Fruitland St., Suite B  
Kennewick, WA 99336  
Phone: 509-585-5460  
Fax: 509-585-2671  
E-mail: [agmgt@agmgt.com](mailto:agmgt@agmgt.com)

## WASHINGTON STATE HAY GROWERS 2005 CONVENTION

**DATES:**  
JANUARY 16-18, 2005

**PLACE:** THE ALL NEW -  
THREE RIVERS CONVENTION  
CENTER, IN KENNEWICK, WA

The Convention center offers a completely covered trade show area to accommodate small booths or the biggest equipment in comfort. State of the art meeting rooms and a host of nearby hotels and restaurants will make this a premier event. Combine all of this with a program that focuses on the issues that you as a grower are most interested in and you will not want to miss this meeting.

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
NOW AND PLAN TO  
ATTEND**

[www.wa-hay.org](http://www.wa-hay.org)

The association web site is undergoing changes. It's getting a new look and improved access capabilities. Check it out for the latest news on research, import/export statistics, crop conditions and upcoming events. We're working on it now, but it is still accessible, so look us up.

## ALFALFA WEEVIL BY TIM WOODWARD

One of the things a grower should do each spring is monitor for the alfalfa weevil populations. In the Columbia Basin, damage caused by the alfalfa weevil usually becomes apparent close to harvest when it is too late for economic damage to occur. However, there are occasions when the weevil can economically damage some fields. Alfalfa fields that are close to trees or near an area that is conducive (higher humidity) to over wintering of

weevil and the cloverleaf weevil were observed. In general, alfalfa fields were in excellent shape with minimal leaf diseases and insect damage.

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