

WSU COLLEGE OF AG AND HOME ECONOMICS HOLDS STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

The Washington State University College of Agriculture and Home Economics is holding stakeholder meetings to update everyone on the WSU and CAHE strategic planning activities, discuss biennial budget request priorities, and anticipated Executive or Legislative actions on budget for Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension. There will be two sessions, one on the east side and one on the west side:

Pullman December 10, 2001
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Compton Union Building (Cascade)

Puyallup December 19, 2001
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
WSU Puyallup REC
Allmendinger Center

RSVP is requested to the Dean's Office (509/335-4561) no later than 5:00 p.m., December 5, to confirm meal numbers.

The last time WSU had a major meeting of College of Agriculture and Home Economics administrators and agricultural stakeholders was in December 1996. The result of the 1996 meeting was the plan for the Safe Food Initiative and the successful effort to persuade the legislature to fund the Initiative.

Since then, WSU has undertaken a major strategic planning activity. The Legislature and the Executive Branch continue to emphasize the importance of instructional programs, but research and extension directly serve constituent needs. How do we raise the visibility and priority of Agricultural Research and Cooperative Extension in the competition for limited state funds? The new state revenue projections and increased caseloads in agencies show a \$1.2 billion state deficit and the Governor's office is planning its legislative agenda, so the supplemental and biennial budgets will be discussed.

This invitation to College of Agriculture and Home Economics constituencies includes agriculture, natural resources, human sciences, food and nutritional areas. This forum will achieve a variety of important objectives:

1. To outline the strategic planning and priorities in the College for teaching, the Agricultural Research Center, and Cooperative Extension,
2. To discuss budget requests and potential budget reductions, and
3. To establish the mechanisms to maintain and enhance high quality programs for stakeholders.

YAKIMA HAY GROWERS PLAN EDUCATION MEETING DEC. 11

Yakima Hay Growers have planned a meeting for Tuesday, December 11, beginning at 12:00 noon at the Fort Restaurant in Wapato. The guest speaker will address the status of new water storage projects in the Yakima Basin.

COLUMBIA BASIN HAY GROWERS WILL HOLD BASIN CITY HAY MEETING DEC. 13

The Columbia Basin Hay Growers (Benton/Franklin area) will hold its annual alfalfa hay meeting at the Basin City Firehall on Thursday, December 13, beginning at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$10 and includes lunch, breaks, and handouts from the meeting.

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
8:55 a.m. Welcome - Kevin Gray, President
 Columbia Basin Hay Growers
9:00 a.m. Pesticides and Salmon: Real Concern or
 Red Herring? - Dr. Allan Felsot, WSU

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**NORTHEAST WASHINGTON HAY GROWERS
HOLD ANNUAL HAY CONFERENCE DEC. 6**

The Northeast Washington Hay Growers Association will hold its Annual Hay Conference on Thursday, December 6, 2001, at the Deer Park Fairgrounds. Pre-registration is \$5.00 before December 3 (\$8.00 at the door) and includes an excellent lunch.

The program is in cooperation with the WSU Cooperative Extension Service:

- 8:00 a.m. Registration
- 8:45 - 9:00 Introduction of Exhibitors
- 9:00 - 9:30 Weed Control in Pasture and Hay
John Fouts, WSU Spokane Co. Extension
- 9:30 - 11:00 Producing Hay in NE Washington
Steve Fransen, WSU Extension Forage Specialist
- 11:15 - 11:45 Hay Production Practices to Compete with Weeds
Steve Fransen, WSU Extension Forage Specialist
- 11:45 - 12:15 Northeast Washington Hay Growers Association Meeting
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00 - 1:30 Hay Outlook
Tim Woodward, WSU Benton/ Franklin Extension
- 1:30 - 2:00 Washington State Hay Growers Association Report
Keith Rupprecht, WSHGA President
- 2:00 - 2:30 The Possibility of a State Hay Commission
John Kugler, WSU Grant/Adams Extension
- 2:45 - 3:35 Pesticides in Compost and Pesticide Security
Scott Nielson, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture

Pesticide applicators recertification credits will be available. For more information, contact Larry Busse, president of the Northeast Washington Hay Growers Association, at 509/466-4501 or at lbtjm@omnicast.net.

**DO NOT FORGET TO MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
MID-COLUMBIA BASIN HAY GROWERS!
ANNUAL MEETING CONFERENCE**

JANUARY 22 - 23, 2002

The Mid-Columbia Basin Hay Growers Association (Grant/Adams area) will hold its annual hay meeting on Wednesday, December 12, 2001, at Big Bend Community College Auditorium, Building 1400. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude with the start of the Washington State Hay Growers Association board meeting at 3:00 p.m. The Mid-Columbia Basin Hay Growers is a newly re-activated association and is holding its first hay meeting in several years. Registration is \$10.00.

The program is in cooperation with WSU Cooperative Extension and includes:

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
Nathan Dyk, MCBHGA President
- 9:15 a.m. White Cockle: Biology, Distribution, and Control
John Kugler, WSU Grant/Adams Ext.
- 9:45 a.m. Parameters Sought by Exports in Selecting Export-Quality Hay
Aaron Hull, Intern'l Ag Commodities
- 10:45 a.m. Delinquent Hay Payments - Prevention and Collection Strategies
Bob Radke, WA Dept. of Agriculture
- 11:15 a.m. Rates and Commercial Methods of Seeding for Hay - Panel Discussion
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch - A Hay Commission for Washington?
John Kugler, WSU Grant/Adams Ext.
- 1:00 p.m. Producing "Value-Added" Hay for Horses, Sheep, and Goats
Lynnel Rowan, WSU Yakima Ext.
- 1:30 p.m. Bioterrorism and the Livestock Industry - What Hay Growers Should Know
Sara Maki Smith, WSU Grant/Adams Ext
- 2:20 p.m. In-Field Information from Quick Center-Pivot Catch-Can Tests
Don Hanson, Grant Co. Cons. District
- 2:40 p.m. Soil Amendments for Increasing Infiltration
Bob Stevens, WSU Cooperative Extension
- 3:00 p.m. Mid-Columbia Meeting Adjourns

WASHINGTON/OREGON (COLUMBIA BASIN)

Tonnage: 7,190 Week Ago: 4,190 Year Ago: 7,330

Compared to last week, Good and Premium alfalfa trading steady. Trading very slow, demand moderate on very light offerings of hay with no faults. Premium alfalfa dairy hay trading steady. Trading very slow this holiday shortened week. Demand light to moderate with some buyer resistance to current asking levels on light to moderate offerings held in firm hands. Fair and Good alfalfa for export slicer, cubers, dry cows and beef trading firm. Trading light to moderate, demand very good from beef accounts and light to moderate from other buyers on very light offerings of Fair alfalfa and light to moderate offerings of Good alfalfa held in firm hands. Feedstore and horse sales steady. Trading slow this holiday shortened week on mostly light offerings held in firm hands.

Quality/Bale Size	Tons	Price	Wtd Avg	Comments
Export Alfalfa sales to move in 60 days, tops off:				
Premium 2-tie	300	125.00	125.00	
Premium 3-tie	200	125.00	125.00	
Domestic Alfalfa sales, tops off:				
Premium 2-3 tie	330	120.-130.00	122.73	
Good 2-3 tie	435	105.-110.00	107.41	
Good mid/ton	1820	105.-110.00	105.60	
Fair 2-3 tie	120	105.00	105.00	
Fair mid/ton	390	100.-105.00	102.31	

3,475 tons of other hay reported. Export Premium #2 dairy timothy, moderate brown leaf 100.00 FOB. Premium alfalfa, outside stack not covered 118.00 FOB 3 tie bales. Premium alfalfa, rain damage 110.00-115.00 FOB 2-3 tie and big bales covered. Good alfalfa, light rain damage, ADF 30+ 105.00-110.00 2-3 tie and big bales covered. Fair alfalfa, rain damage, ADF 32+ 95.00-100.00 FOB, 2-3 tie and big bales not covered. Fair alfalfa, rain damage, ADF 32+ 100.00-105.00 FOB, 2-3 tie and big bales covered. Fair alfalfa, heavy weeds and grass, ADF 35+ 100.00 FOB big bales covered. Low alfalfa, heavy rain damage, ADF 35+ 90.00 FOB 2 tie covered. Feedstore or horse accounts sales covered, mostly 2-3 tie bales: Good to Premium

orchard 140.00-150.00, few to 160.00 FOB. Good orchard grass, some with light rain 115.00-120.00 FOB. Good to Premium orchard/alfalfa blend 130.00-140.00 FOB. Good orchard/alfalfa blend, some with light rain 110.00-115.00 FOB. Good to Premium alfalfa 120.00-130.00 FOB. Good alfalfa, some with light rain 110.00-115.00 FOB. Wheat straw 50.00-55.00 FOB. *USDA Market News*

REVIEW OF BPA POWER BUY-BACK

The 2001 power buyback through BPA's Voluntary Energy Load Reduction (VELR) program resulted in 91,000 normally irrigated acres in the Columbia Basin Project being left dry in 2001, nearly 15 percent of the water rights associated with the project. Farmers swarmed to the program and BPA had no problem signing contracts on the maximum amount of acreage allowed in the program.

The projected conservation disaster due to suddenly idle ground in a notoriously windy area was averted to a great extent by many growers who planted their VELR-contracted ground to dryland wheat and oat crops. Although no official statistics exist, Dick Erickson, secretary-manager of the East Columbia Basin Irrigation District in Othello, estimated that the majority of the acreage was not left fallow. Much of the acreage enrolled in the program already had existing alfalfa and other perennial crops, and many of the Basin alfalfa fields that were not irrigated this year yielded two and even three cuttings.

Although the program saved some farms with a much-needed cash injection, many Columbia Basin businesses were adversely affected, with some reporting gross sales down 50 percent. However, Moses Lake Mayor Richard Pearce reported that Moses Lake state sales tax figures are up, even though farm supply sales are down.

BPA was generally pleased with the results of the buy-back program and has not ruled out a repeat in 2002. The decision will be based on the movement of power prices and the amount of winter snowpack.

ESTIMATED FY2001 CROP LOSSES
DUE TO STORMS/DROUGHT TOPS \$224 MILLION

The Washington State Farm Service Agency has estimated actual financial losses to Washington crops due to the 2001 drought and damaging storms that swept through several southeastern Washington counties in June to top \$224 million. Losses to alfalfa, timothy, and other hay crops feature prominently in counties throughout the state, with an estimated \$35.61 million in losses in all counties except Yakima. The damage to all Yakima County crops was estimated to be \$87.134 million.

NOVEMBER 2001

23 WASHINGTON COUNTIES QUALIFY FOR DISASTER RELIEF EMERGENCY LOANS

Ag Secretary Ann Veneman has named 23 counties in Washington eligible for USDA emergency farm loans due to losses caused by various disasters that occurred in 2000 and 2001. "This emergency assistance will focus on bringing economic and social infrastructure back to pre-disaster levels," said Veneman. Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Klickitat, Lincoln, and Stevens Counties were named as primary disaster areas on November 2, 2001. Also eligible because they are contiguous are Adams, Ferry, Franklin,

Garfield, Grant, King, Kittitas, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Walla Walla, Whitman, and Yakima Counties.

This designation makes all qualified farm operators in primary and contiguous disaster counties eligible for low-interest loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met. Farmers in eligible counties have eight months from the date of this declaration to apply for the loans to help cover part of their

actual losses. FSA will consider each loan application on its own merits, taking into account the extent of the losses, security available, and repayment availability. For more information contact your local county FSA office.

BASIN CITY ALFALFA HAY MEETING, CONT.

- 9:50 a.m. Weed Control in Orchard and Timothy Grass Hay Fields - Dr. Bob Parker, WSU
- 11:10 a.m. Solving Twin Knotter Mysteries - Hyrum Jones, Hyrum Jones Farm Service
- 11:50 a.m. Lunch
- 1:00 p.m. Alfalfa Disease and Insect Resistance Rating: What Do They Mean? - Dr. Tim Woodward, WSU
- 1:50 p.m. New Grasses for Pasture and Hay - Dr. John Kugler, WSU
- 2:10 p.m. Dairy Outlook - Steve Deruyter, Five D Farms
- 2:30 p.m. Market Outlook for Alfalfa and Timothy Hay: Panel Discussion