



SAFETY



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PROFESSIONALISM

FAR WEST FOCUS

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- **Certified Crop Adviser (CCA) Exam**
August 7, 2015
FWAA Office, Spokane, WA
- **AgChem Spill Response Training**
September 15-18, 2015
Oregon Garden Resort, Silverton, OR
- **Agribusiness Academy**
November 11-12, 2015
FWAA Office, Spokane, WA
- **2015 December Winter Conference**
December 8-10, 2015
Three Rivers Convention Center
Kennewick, WA
- **2016 January Winter Conference**
January 12-14, 2016
College of Southern Idaho
Twin Falls, ID

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Washington Hazardous Substance Tax Exemption Approved

Hard work, persistence, and a dedicated team can make things happen, even within the legislature. For the past two legislative sessions (years), a bill set to correct the unintentional consequences of a hazardous substance tax put the market back into control of where FIFRA products will be warehoused. Although the tax and exemption is in Washington State, the outcome affects the regional storage and timely distribution of crop protection products within the Northwest Region. Details as to the specific mechanics of the exemption are yet to be determined, but the authorization was approved on June 30th when Governor Jay Inslee approved the agreed-upon budget for the next biennium.

The involvement of legislative leadership and individual legislative members ... resulted in a common sense correction to the law which will benefit every farm within the Northwest region and the environment by making certain critical crop protection products available when needed ...

There are many to recognize for their part in making this happen, and it starts with the FWAA Board of Directors. The Board authorized this effort as a priority for the Association and approved additional funds for lobbyist Tom McBride to acquire expert resources when needed. McBride, who has represented FWAA in Olympia for the past six years, provided the strategy and process knowledge to navigate the bill through the various committees within both sides of the legislature and make certain it remained part of the budget so as to avoid cutoff dates. This allowed the bill to stay alive to the end of the session. His team, along with FWAA members who

directly and indirectly participated in educating legislators, agency personnel, environmental groups, and the general public, made certain they understood the positive commerce and environmental aspects of the bill.

Those who have worked within the state legislative system know that it is easier to derail a piece of legislation but it is much more difficult to get a bill passed into law. Too much cannot be said about the importance of events such as the warehouse tours last October, which were attended by leadership within the Departments of Commerce, Ecology, and Agriculture. Last July, an evening barbecue entitled “Meet your Legislator” was held in Grandview, Washington where introductions and industry education took place and relationships were forged.

The involvement of legislative leadership and individual legislative members from both parties and from both the Senate and the House members in Olympia resulted in a common sense correction to the law which will benefit every farm within the Northwest region and the environment by making certain critical crop protection products available when needed and until they are needed, they are stored in safe and controlled commercial warehouses.

Jim Fitzgerald

A Long Journey to a New Home

Far West Agribusiness Association (FWAA) first began as the Inland Empire Fertilizer Dealers Association in 1959. It then was renamed the Far West Fertilizer Association, followed by The Far West Fertilizer and Agrichemical Association when the Inland Empire Agrichemical Association merged. Not long after, the name Far West Agribusiness Association was found to be more suitable and since then, the Idaho Crop Production Association and the Washington Pest Consultants Association have also merged.

Throughout the 56-year history of the association, your financial support has given the organization the necessary funds to provide training, respond to legislative needs, and quickly and effectively react to industry situations – all while slowly acquiring a financial reserve that has been and will continue to be used to serve our members. With that historic perspective in mind along with a long-term commitment towards the future, the Board recently queried voting members to see what their thoughts were regarding the acquisition of a building instead of renting office and facility space, which has been done since inception of the association. The response was overwhelmingly in favor. This acquisition will allow principal, interest, taxes and insurance payments to go toward an appreciating asset as opposed to rent. The timing was

excellent since our current lease will expire the end of July, at which time the rent would increase.

We are excited to report that this week, the association closed on a 5,000 square foot steel building that was constructed in 2008, with approximately 1,400 square feet in finished office space and the balance in finished warehouse space suitable for classes, clinics, and workshops. FWAA now joins about one-half of the agribusiness associations across the United States who own their buildings. The building is located at 5805 W. Thorpe, Spokane, Washington, in a growing light industrial area within the West Plains. The first member use of the new building will be August 7th, when it will serve as a proctor exam site for the NWCCA and ICCA exams. The facility will also host the fourth annual Far West Agribusiness Academy on November 11 & 12th.

This is the member's building; it is available to you if you have specific needs, so please call the office for scheduling availability. We encourage members to stop by for a tour when in the area.

Thank you for your support all these years, we look forward to serving you in the future from our new home!

Jim Fitzgerald



Far West Continues to Reward Top Performing Students

Far West Agribusiness Association Scholarship Committee will award \$10,000 in college and high school scholarships for the 2015 year beginning this fall. Many highly-qualified applications were received from students in Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Utah and Nevada. Of the applications received, 9 High School and 9 College students were chosen to receive scholarships in amounts ranging from \$250 to \$1,000 each.

The FWAA Scholarship Committee members volunteer their time to review each application, scoring each applicant with regards to the student's GPA, Résumé Presentation, Letters of Recommendation and an Essay Topic. This year each applicant selected two issues facing agriculture. The available list to select from included: Water Quality Related Issues, Sustainability, Soil Health, Climate Changes and Social Acceptance of a Genetically Modified Organism (GMO). Their essays were written incorporating their selection and addressed "How Agriculture Should Advocate for its Industry".

For a list of the Scholarship Recipients, visit www.fwaa.org and click on the Scholarships tab.

Denise Spanbauer



FWAA December & January Winter Conferences Planning is Underway

The planning of the FWAA Winter Conferences is in full swing. Dates and locations for the conferences are as follows:

December 2015 Conference:

Dates: December 8-10, 2015

Location: Three Rivers Convention Center (TRCC), 7016 W Grandridge Blvd, Kennewick, WA

Keynote, December 9th: Mr. James Blome, President and CEO, Bayer CropScience

January 2016 Conference:

Dates: January 12-14, 2016

Location: College of Southern Idaho (CSI), 315 Falls Ave, Twin Falls, ID

Keynote, January 14th: Mr. Jay Vroom, President and CEO, CropLife America

Please note that this year's conferences will begin on a Tuesday, concluding on Thursday, allowing for a business day on each side of the conference

The FWAA Conference Planning Committee has been working diligently with the FWAA staff in securing highly qualified speakers with topics that are relevant and significant to our industry. Keep watching as we update our online agenda as we obtain speaker confirmation. To access the agendas, go to www.fwaa.org. Click on the "Events & Registrations" tab and choose either the December 2015 conference or the January 2016 conference. Select the "[Click here for more information](#)" hyperlink to be directed to the agenda.

Exhibitor and general event registration

opened in early summer 2015 with many already registering for both conferences. Limited booth space is available so if you wish to exhibit please reserve your space ASAP. Exhibitor diagrams are available on the Events & Registrations tab for each conference on the FWAA website. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Some sponsorship opportunities are still available at both conferences. Several companies have already taken advantage of additional advertising exposure for their company by securing their sponsorship early. Contact the FWAA office to become a sponsor today!

Denise Spanbauer

Proper Disposal & Recycling of Empty Seed Treatment Containers

Seed treatment is a specialized and important aspect of Washington's agricultural industry. Those who treat seeds have contacted the Washington State Department of Ecology and identified some specific types of seed treatment pesticide containers, with rinsing requirements under the Dangerous Waste Regulations (WAC 173-303), that made it expensive and complicated to recycle empty containers. The Department of Ecology is a strong supporter of pesticide container recycling and worked with the seed treating industry to find a solution.

The rinsate generated from the majority of empty plastic pesticide containers is used on additional crops when preparing a fresh batch/tank (when the label allows). Once rinsed, the empty containers can be recycled through Agri-Plas, Inc.

who contracts with the Agriculture Container Recycling Council (ACRA) container recycling program.

However, empty seed treatment containers, which are a small percent of the total waste pesticide containers generated in the State, can be a problem when it comes to meeting WAC 173-303's recycling/disposal requirements, specifically when the product is labeled with "Warning" or "Danger." The problem occurs because many of these seed treatment pesticide containers are simply not meant to be rinsed. Either the label does not allow rinsate to be used or the container has specialized fittings, which make rinsing very difficult. These types of containers are best handled by a permitted pesticide container recycler and proper documentation preserved or returned to manufac-

turer for refilling or re-purposing.

If you are located in Washington State, and have empty, un-rinsed seed treatment containers with "Danger" or "Warning" on the label please read the **Department of Ecology's Enforcement Discretion Notice on Waste Management for Specific Federal Insecticide Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Empty Seed Treatment Containers**. The Notice provides some regulatory relief by allowing specific empty seed treatment pesticide containers to not have to be managed as a hazardous waste if recycled through a permitted recycler or returned to the manufacturer. **The Notice is available** on the Far West website at www.fwaa.org.

Jim Fitzgerald

Online Conference Registration Provides More Comprehensive Information

Far West Agribusiness Association (FWAA) utilizes the online event registration platform of Cvent®. This program enables FWAA the capability to provide an ever-increasing range of information and visibility for our attendees, exhibitors, sponsors and speakers. To meet the needs of our Members, we offer the ability to access to pertinent information pertaining to conferences, training and events. A link to events is located on the FWAA website, www.fwaa.org. Click on the “Events & Registrations” tab located on the left hand side of the screen, select either tab for either the December or January Conference and then click on the hyperlink which states “Click HERE for more information”. A new web page will open for the event selected. At the top of the screen a selection is available to review.

The available items include:

- **Summary** – Provides a summary of the event. Information includes the dates, location, as well as a link to register.
- **Fees** – The fee structure of the event is listed along with a refund policy for the event.
- **Agenda** – The agenda for the event is made available for review. Detailed information for sessions will include the session topic and description, continuing education units (CEU’s) and speaker information. The agenda can be sorted by “track”, in detail and “at a glance”. Detailed information for sessions will include the session topic and description, continuing education units (CEU’s) and speaker information. The agenda is made available for viewing as the conference is being built. In some cases the information on topics and speakers may not appear, but are updated as information is available.
- **Speakers** – The biography and photo of the speakers are provided. A link to the speaker’s information is also available on the “Agenda” tab.
- **Attendees** – A list of registered attendees is provided. The list can be sorted by name or company.
- **Exhibitors** – Potential vendors interested in exhibiting at the event can obtain information regarding the booth. A registration form can be downloaded from this page, as well as a current diagram of the exhibit hall listing all exhibitors.
- **Sponsors** – A list of the conference sponsors is provided. A new web page will open when clicking on the logo of a sponsor. The list shows which sponsorship opportunities are available. Sponsorship packets can be downloaded from this page.
- **Accommodations** – Hotel information, including locations, rates, reservation codes and amenities, is provided. In some cases a hyperlink is included for easy access to the reservation desk of the hotel selected.
- **Recert. Credits** – A list of available credits, by awarding state, is provided on this page. CCA credits are also listed.
- **Location** – Provides maps and directions to the location of the event.
- **Contact Us** – Sending a message to the FWAA staff is simplified in this easy-to-use feature. Simply fill in the information and click send. FWAA will respond quickly to all contact messages.

Denise Spanbauer

Summary

Fees

Agenda

Attendees

Exhibitors

Sponsors

Accommodations

Recert. Credits

Location

Contact Us

2015 December Winter Conference

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2016 January Winter Conference

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OUR MISSION:

Far West Agribusiness Association's mission is to enhance the business and safety environment for the fertilizer and agrichemical industry in Idaho, Oregon, Utah, Nevada, and Washington.

OUR STAFF:

Jim Fitzgerald
Executive Director

Denise Spanbauer
Business Manager

Louise Andrews
Member Services



When Acquiring/Updating an Air Quality Permit...Check the TAP List

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urges states to keep their Toxic Air Pollutant (TAP) List current and inclusive. Each state maintains a TAP list.

Not long ago, a member of FWAA notified us that Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) includes Ammonium Sulfate (AS) on its TAP list. One of the most common uses for AS is to add it to post-emergence herbicide sprays to improve their effectiveness of weed control. FWAA contacted DOE and learned that they had relied primarily on a California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) for its resource information. California OEHHA established an acute reference exposure level (REL) for sulfates; however, the assessment was intended for aerosols, not liquid solutions and solid blends intended for agricultural use. As a result, FWAA objected based upon the extremely low volatility of the liquid form and because the dry form was contained within a package, covered and protected from moisture or evaporation and not subjected to wind. FWAA also pointed out that the typical AS concentrations in fertilizer products would not be expected to come

anywhere near the 120 ppm threshold set by OSHA. FWAA provided the Screening Information Data Set (SIDS) program as a resource for DOE's consideration. Finally, FWAA asked that AS be removed from the Washington State TAP list on April 1, 2015. A copy of the FWAA letter can be viewed by clicking on this [link](#).

DOE responded on April 15, 2015, ignoring the above information and stating, "Ammonium Sulfate is only considered for regulation if it is being emitted from a new or modified source of air pollution requiring a pre-construction air permit." The response letter was vague when determining at what level air emissions of AS would require a permit for what was referred to as a "pollutant." DOE went on to say that Washington State has seven local clean air agencies with somewhat different permitting criteria, which should be consulted before constructing or operating any new facilities. For a copy of the DOE response letter, please click on this [link](#).

Jim Fitzgerald

SHORTS:

- **CCA Exams** – International and State exams are scheduled to be held around our region on August 7, 2015. The next scheduled exams will take place on February 5, 2016. Please visit the website at www.fwaa.org for more information.
- **Safety Training** – FWAA is scheduling safety training in the Willamette Valley for the week of September 15-18, 2015 at the Oregon Garden Resort in Silverton. Trainer Nick Broemelting will present 24-hour initial training and an 8-hour refresher. A minimum of 15 attendees has been set, with a maximum class size of 32 attendees. If the minimum attendance is not met by August 7, 2015, the training will be rescheduled to a later date. Please visit the website at www.fwaa.org for more information.
- **Agribusiness Academy** – November 11 & 12, 2015 are the tentative dates for the 4th Annual Agribusiness Academy to be held at the FWAA office at 5805 W Thorpe Road in Spokane. Visit the website at www.fwaa.org for more information.
- **Committees** - Two new committees are in the process of being formed: the PAC Committee and the Regulatory Committee. Please contact the FWAA office if you are interested in participating on any of our committees.
- **FWAA Website** - As a reminder, please visit the FWAA website at www.fwaa.org for information on Equipment Exchange, Internships, and UCC Matrix.

Denise Spanbauer and Louise Andrews