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LEWIS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Serving Farmers and Ranchers of Lewis County

August 2008

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2008 Lewis County Farm Bureau Board Members

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Larry Dacca
Dennis Felt
Charles Gruhl
Maureen Harkcom
John Lucas
Mike Mahoney
Ron Mauel
Bob Thode

Mark Your Calendar:

Southwest Washington Fair, Chehalis, August 12-17

LCFB regular board meeting, Sept. 3 Spiffy's, 6:30 p.m.

Beekeeping symposium generates interest



Farm Bureau member Bob Harris and apiary expert James Bach

Extension Office with an onsite field visit to the Rose of Sharon Farm. The event was organized by Farm Bureau member Robert Harris.

The guest speaker was James C. Bach, retired Washington State Apiarist and past President and Vice President of the Apiary Inspectors of American. Bach also serves on the executive committee of the Washington State Beekeepers Association.

The one-day symposium was well attended by beekeepers and those interested in the field. Additional articles on the subject will be published in upcoming newsletters.

2008 Lewis County Farm Bureau scholarship winners Hillary Peters and Alex VanTuyl stand with LCFB Scholarship Committee members Maureen Harkcom, Charlie Gruhl, and Brian Thompson at the annual LCFB picnic on July 2 at Happ's Equestrian Center in Ethel. About 40 members and guest attended the event.

A symposium on the science and business of honey beekeeping was conducted on July 12 at the WSU Lewis County



Candidates endorsed by WSFB PAC

The political action committee of the Washington Farm Bureau has endorsed several candidates for the upcoming primary election, based on the recommendations of the Lewis County Farm Bureau Candidate Evaluation Committee and other county Farm Bureau CECs across the state.

STATEWIDE

Dino Rossi (R) for Governor
Attorney General Rob McKenna (R)
Commissioner of Public Lands Doug Sutherland (R)

STATE SENATE

Sen. Dan Swecker (R), 20th District

STATE HOUSE

Rep. Richard DeBolt (R), 20th District, Pos. 1
Rep. Gary Alexander (R), 20th District, Pos. 2

LOCAL

Commissioner Ron Averill (R) Lewis County Commissioner, District 1
Bruce Schulte (R), Lewis County Commissioner, District 2

Be sure to visit our website: www.lewiscountyfb.com

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Finally, summer has arrived. Or, maybe not. Just

when I was certain that it was haying weather, the clouds rolled in. Not to worry, I simply changed gears and made haylage.

Thank goodness for a "back-up" plan and for the ability to go with the flow. I am sure that like ourselves, all of you have been kept busy scrambling to make winter feed or to get in the crops that pay the bills or keep the crews pruning and fertilizing, trying to make it work. I think we all agree that it has been one hectic spring/summer.

Penny and I were honored to be asked to represent the Washington Farm Bureau as we accepted an award, along with WFB President Steve Appel, from the Association of Washington Businesses at its recent state meeting in Spokane.

The summer picnic at Happ's Equestrian Center in Ethel was one of the best we have ever held. The BBQ chicken was great, and the hamburger patties were awesome, even without buns! We were honored to have two of our scholarship recipients attend and update us on their plans for the future. We also got to meet 3rd Congressional District Republican candidate Christine Webb. She was the unanimous choice of state party officials and is running against the incumbent, U.S. Rep. Brian

Baird. A well-qualified individual who understands the needs and concerns of our area farmers, she was certainly worth listening to.

We have the Southwest Washington Fair coming up in mid-August, and we will be completing our display booth schedule at our next meeting on August 6.

In addition to all of our summer comings-and-goings, we were made aware of a "hatchet job" performed by the Seattle Times. In its Sunday, July 13 issue, the paper seemed to be looking for a "whipping boy", and it settled on an individual who deserves to be praised, not chastised, for his role in our natural disaster this past December. The paper cast about, looking for villains. The rain? The rivers? The laws that won't allow dredging and protects fish, not people? There he is, hiding behind his title of Commissioner of Public Lands, in the form of Doug Sutherland.

You can go to the Seattle Times archives and see for yourself at "seattletimes.nwsourc.com" reference number 2008048848. Suffice it to say that it provoked me enough to inspire the letter to the Editor that is published in this newsletter. The paper may not print it, but by putting it here, you can see what stance I took in the name of our organization. Lewis County owes a huge kudo to Mr. Sutherland, and the city folk need to understand his role.

Ron Mael

President LCFB

Business listing page available –

Advertise your agriculture-related business on the Lewis County Farm Bureau website. Pricing is competitive, and all proceeds go to the LCFB scholarship program.

Visit: www.lewis-countyfb.com

What caused the flooding and landslides in Lewis County last December? Water. Lots of water.

No kidding! In some areas, the storm dropped 20 inches of rain. And it all ran downhill, taking trees, hillsides and a lot more with it. Our farms, communities and lives were thrown into upheaval by the unprecedented combination of snowmelt, rain and the flood that resulted.

Before the floodwaters receded, partisans and political opportunists began pointing fingers. Instead of working to help people and communities in need, they seized the opportunity to further their political agenda. The worst of human nature was brought out following an act of Mother Nature. But others showed true leadership in coming to our aid. Among them was Land Commissioner Doug Sutherland, who quickly created a program to remove the "large woody debris" from our farms. Doug realized we could not get back to farming if there were trees and root wads covering our fields.

Sutherland had the resources to deal with the problem, and he pulled everything together to help people who had lost their homes, their animals, their equipment and their incomes.

The only finger I want to point is at Lands Commissioner Doug Sutherland, as I say "well done". Sutherland has shown true leadership and compassion in the midst of the greatest crisis many will ever face.

Ron Mael, President LCFB

There ought to be a law

By Glenn Aldrich

Perhaps you've said, "There oughtta be a law". Well, there probably already IS a law. There are four segments that form the law with which you must comply.

It all begins with state laws (RCWs) as passed by the Legislature and signed by the Governor. These are available at <http://www.law.wa.gov/CodeReviser/>. These are the basic laws, but they get modified by one or more steps.

This same site will give you access to the Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) that also have the force of law, but these are rules formulated by various state agencies and departments. The Code Revisor keeps the website updated on a regular basis, and this is a quick way for one to view "the law".

If you want more detail, there also are guidelines that the agencies and departments develop. These are a little more difficult to find, but they most likely can be found by contact with the particular agency or department. These do not literally have the force of law, but these become the basis for staff decision making and are sometimes supported by court decisions.

The fourth segment consists of court decisions that also are online but are even more difficult to understand. When all is said and done, these decisions rule.

Southwest Washington Fair: August 12-17

Be sure to come and visit the LCFB booth under the grandstand. There will

be LCFB signs available and other important and informational handouts.

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LCFB Favorite Recipe

Refrigerator Pickles

7 cups cucumbers, peeled and thinly sliced	1 cup diced red onion
1 tsp salt	1 cup chopped green bell pepper
2 cups white sugar	1 cup cider vinegar
	1 tsp celery seed

Mix the cucumbers and salt and let stand for one hour. Do not drain mixture. Add sugar, onions, bell pepper, cider vinegar and celery seed. Mix well, cover and refrigerate. Perfect to spoon over your favorite salad or use as a summer appetizer.