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LEWIS COUNTY FARM BUREAU

Serving Farmers and Ranchers of Lewis County

June 2008

2008 Lewis County Farm Bureau Officers

President
Ron Mauel
(360) 740-9868

Vice President
John Lucas
(360) 262-3877

Treasurer
Charles Gruhl
(360) 978-4707

Recording Secretary
Janet Lucas
(360) 262-3877

2008 Lewis County Farm Bureau Board Members

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

Mark Your Calendar:

July 2

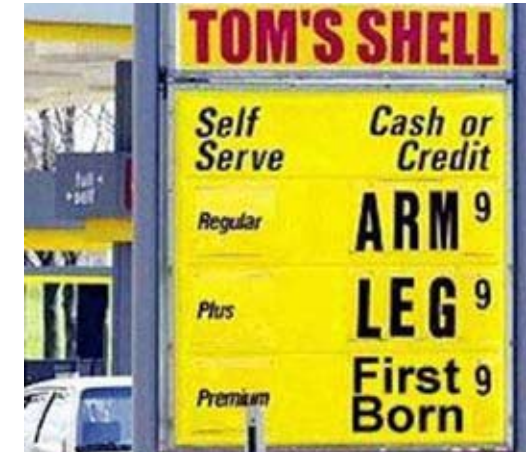
6 p.m.
LCFB potluck picnic
Hosted by Happ's, Inc.

August 6

6:30 p.m.
LCFB Board Meeting
Spiffy's Restaurant

August 12-17

SWW Fair
Visit the Farm Bureau Booth



Fuel prices forcing new strategies

By Charles Gruhl

With gas prices moving beyond the \$4 range, I have decided to sell our pickup, stop the insurance, and use the insurance money I saved to buy gas for our car. Anyone out there know how to add a trailer hitch to a car?

Instead of using a pickup, I will use a trailer. As we come up with new ideas for saving energy, let's rethink safety. If we pull a trailer behind a car, will it have proper lights? Will the electrical plug match the car signal lights? Some trailers have electrical impulse brakes, while some trailers are wider than the towing vehicle. It is recommended that the trailer weight not exceed 1/3 of the total weight. A two-ton car should pull a trailer weighing 2,000 pounds or less. 1/3 of 6,000 total weight = 2000 pounds.

It is good to see everyone keeping their tires properly inflated and all the excess weight removed from their vehicles. Please be very careful, and think twice before you install a piece of equipment that is advertised to

save fuel. I have found a fresh chicken egg between your foot and the accelerator works best. I picked up a bike at Goodwill. You can see me traveling from the upper barns to the lower barns. It's fun, but I am glad that I have a tire pump. Soft tires take a lot more energy to get up hills.

Mossyrock Public Market now open

The Mossyrock Public Market (aka "farmers market") opened its second season on May 10. Vendors, including Lewis County Farm Bureau members Carol Thomas and Aldrich Berry Farm, reported sales to be "very good."

Located in downtown Mossyrock, the Market is open every Saturday until the end of August. There is space available for more vendors, and those who offer fresh produce are particularly solicited. The cost to rent space is 5% of gross sales or a minimum of \$10. Contact people are: Terri Marko at 978-4613, Darla Brooks at 269-2653, or Audrey DeMoisey at 978-6556.

You're Invited!

Lewis County Farm Bureau Summer Potluck Picnic:

July 2, 6 p.m.

Happ's, Inc. – 1432 US Hwy 12, Ethel
RSVP by June 25 to Janet Lucas at 262-3877

Please join your LCFB members for an informal get together at one of our local destination landmarks, Happ's.

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

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Spring is here! Many of us have started our spring

farming activities, and some of us are more fortunate than others. There are always obstacles to overcome no matter where you live. Recently, I took another visit out to the west end of the county, just to see how everyone was doing with their own personal flood recovery.

It has been more than four months since the flood waters poured down on the upper Chehalis residents. Most of us are very aware of the devastation and wreckage left in the path of the raging river, and it is still in evidence today. It will take a great deal of effort and large amounts of money to even come close to full recovery. There are still pastures covered by debris and fields scoured down to gravel, while some are inundated with thick mud.

However, it was uplifting to see that some ground is being prepared for crops, and quite a few fences are clean and useful once again. A number of Valley folks have created large piles of woody debris ready for removal or burning. We saw a large number of baby critters and daffodils coming up, as though to remind everyone that better times are coming.

Here is a reminder to those hardest hit – if you haven't already done so, please check

with the Lewis County Conservation District as they now have funds available. This money has been approved by the state Legislature and is to be distributed for flood recovery efforts.

On a happier note, congratulations are in order for our new Dairy Ambassador, Miss Larson. The Lewis County Dairy Women worked hard to create a very good program and served delicious homemade desserts. In front of the well-attended event, Commissioner Averill presented the winner with a \$200 check from the Lewis County Farm Bureau. Miss Larson will do a good job representing the dairy industry in the coming year.

We were equally pleased to learn that Greg Petersen, Chief of the Boisfort Fire Department, and Chip Elliott, Chief of Doty-Dryad Fire Department, were singled out for Volunteer of the Year awards by the Board of County Commissioners. During and after the December flood, these two men really demonstrated their leadership skills as they helped to coordinate and guide their respective communities to action. This ongoing effort is a real example of what Lewis County is made of – neighbors helping neighbors, strangers helping strangers, and of course, farmer helping farmer. Let's keep it up Lewis County – together, we help bring full recovery just a little bit closer.

Ron Mavel



The photo on the left was taken on April 19, and the photo on the right was taken May 15. Leave it to Western Washington weather to keep us all guessing "what a difference a month makes."



Sign-up now for Natural Resources Youth Camp

Natural Resources Youth Camp (NRYC) is offering yet another year of future-focused, fun-filled forest adventures. This year's camp is scheduled for June 22-28 at the Cispus Learning Center (located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest). This annual, non-profit outdoor camp provides youth ages 12 – 16 with exploratory learning and leadership-enhancing activities.

Camp activities include hands-on field sessions taught by resource professionals, hikes, exploring, ropes/challenge course, recreation, campfires, skits and other exciting opportunities. Field classes focused on Water, Forests, Wildlife and Soils offer campers a balanced, baseline understanding of natural systems and regional resource issues. Guided by professional resource managers, campers will explore potential options and tools for managing an ecologically sustainable and economically viable future. In addition, much of the curriculum has been aligned with Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs), providing campers with skills and opportunities to improve test scores in science and other content areas.

NRYC's dedicated and trained staff work diligently to support campers in all aspects necessary for a safe, educational and enjoyable week of discovery. Heated, dormitory-style cabins provide campers with secure and comfortable accommodations during their week at camp.

- Cost of camp is \$300, and a limited number of scholarships are available for those in financial need.

- A shuttle service is available for camper transport between camp and a pre-arranged site in Olympia.

- If you have an appropriate outdoor skill or activity you would like to share with NRYC campers, please feel free to contact us.

Make it official and reserve your camper's space today! Please visit www.nryc.org for additional information and to register. Registration deadline is June 16th, so hurry!



New member sign available:

Lewis County Farm Bureau has a newly-designed member sign available to all voting and business members at no charge. The sign measures 18 x 24 inches.

If interested in a sign, contact Lewis County Board mem-

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

FARM BUREAU NEEDS YOU!



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For more information call Mike Fournier at 360.528.2918