Conventional is coming!

Take a look inside for a taste of what is in store.

Will we see you there?

The 2018 WCA/WCW Annual Convention is fast approaching. Keep an eye on your mailboxes for registration information and invitations.

The October and November issues of Ketch Pen will include information about our upcoming convention.

If you are either planning to attend convention, or even considering attending, please book your hotel room at the SpringHill Suites now. Room rates are $109 (plus tax) and reservations can be made by calling 509-820-3026.

The booking cutoff for guaranteed rooms and rates is Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2018. Booked rooms can be canceled at no cost to you 24 hours ahead of your scheduled check-in.

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The PRF is now available in all 48 contiguous states with the exception of a few grids that cross international borders. The Rainfall Index replaces the Vegetation Index in the 2016 crop year.

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A Message from the WCA President

Dear Cattlemen,

Due to some recent events, an odd idea for a Ketch Pen article came to me. It fits well considering the WCA is in the middle of pretty heavy dealings with industry, our own membership, and government. In addition, it fits well as this is almost the last time you’ll hear from me as your president.

I have been looking for a way to express the profound honor, gratitude, and respect I have for our leadership and membership. Only after my time is nearly up, has it started to make sense how much trust, responsibility, and faith comes with being asked to serve the WCA. Through my ruminations on this topic, I have found that after the measurements have been taken, my actions and writings weighed, and progress quantified, my leadership has had significant room for improvement.

When trying to analyze this, I asked what led to these less than stellar leadership examples. This is where I discovered something about past presidents. We have this cumbersome, unwieldy, long-winded, often painful, document called a policy book. I am unsure about you, but when the phrase policy book is muttered, my eyes glaze over and I have an unexplained and overwhelming urge to visit Wyoming, Hawaii, London, or Sydney. But hang with me, I have a point. After the policy discussion ends, and it is time for leadership to act on it, there is a significant change; that dreadful document becomes almost a sacred text. The entire weight of the WCA, specifically, the direction our people and ranches need to head for survival, and the combined work of those people, is contained in that document. I now understand the emotion of duty, trust, faith, and hope comes with being asked to serve the WCA.

Thank you for your faith, thank you for patience, thank you for your wisdom, thank you for the prior leadership, and thank you for being the Washington Cattlemen’s Association. I truly have been honored and humbled to serve the WCA.

Thank you,
T

Tyler Cox
I recently attended the groundbreaking for the new WADDL building (Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory) on the WSU campus. I was honored to meet and network with a great group of people who helped secure funding from the legislature and those who will benefit from it. There were several attendees from the animal and ag lobby there. A few of us got to visiting about politics (big surprise) and I was shocked by something John Stuhmiller from WA Farm Bureau shared. He said, “The results of recent polling in the key legislative districts of Washington showed that a little over ¼ of respondents indicated they did not intend to vote in the general election. This was a query of eligible voters. This was a trend in the primary, in which we saw record low turnout by Republicans. When queried as to why they did not vote in the primary, ¼ said they were away from home or too busy and ¼ said they just didn’t believe their vote mattered.” (emphasis added) “All this leads us to the conclusion that elections are controlled by those who vote. Every vote matters. So, we need all of our members to vote and to nudge their friends and neighbors to vote as well.”

The Washington state ballot will have several important issues that need your vote. WCA has signed on in support of Initiative 1634 Yes! To Affordable Groceries.

“Yes on I-1634 protects working families, farmers, and local businesses. Washington state does not tax groceries but a loophole allows local governments to do so. I-1634 would ensure that our groceries – foods and beverages that we consume every day – are protected from any new or increased local tax, fee, or assessment.

Help keep groceries affordable. The rising cost of living makes it harder for families to afford the basics. Special interest groups across the country, and here in Washington, are proposing taxes on groceries like meats, dairy and juices – basic necessities for all families. I-1634 would prevent local governments from enacting new taxes on groceries. Higher grocery prices don’t hurt the wealthy elites but crush the middle class and those on fixed incomes, including the elderly.

Take a stand for fairness. Washington has the most regressive tax system in the country and places a larger tax burden on the backs of middle and fixed-income families than the wealthy. Taxes on groceries make our current tax structure even more unfair for those struggling to make ends meet.” – From Yes! To Affordable Groceries website.

WCA has also joined the “No on 1631 Coalition,” opposing a state Carbon Tax. The three primary reasons to oppose this initiative according to Ben Buchholz are:

1. The initiative is more about raising taxes on small businesses and farmers than it is about the environment.

2. Several boards and panels would be created if the initiative were to pass and all the members of the boards are non elected appointees by the Governor. The members must be environmentalists, tribal members or scientists. Board appointees can give funds to their own organizations.

3. Carbon tax raises almost $1 billion a year and would be a 45 cent per gallon gas tax increase in the first 15 years. Plus the annual tax increase is not capped and continues to rise each year.”

There are also a number of federal and state elected officials to vote for, your vote will have an impact on who represents us in Washington D.C. and Olympia.

WCA/WCW Convention
A Message from the Washington State Beef Commission

Meet Jane videos promote Cowabunga

There’s nothing better than the humble words of a caretaker of cattle, the environment, her family and her community to light up social media and put a positive face on Washington’s Beef Community. That is exactly what is happening with the new series of videos featuring local beef farmers and ranchers like Jane & Robert Lee and their son Dan, currently targeting millennial consumers on Facebook.

The Cowabunga event promotion video featuring the Lee family has reached over 62,000 people on Facebook in less than two weeks. The more than 1,500 positive reactions and shares of the video have extended its reach beyond the social media platform, causing people to click to learn more about the event, watch the video, or visit the Beef Commission Facebook page over 5,500 times.

The Beef Commission created several producer videos as part of its sponsorship of the Cowabunga event being held in Seattle on October 5-7. Cowabunga is billed by the Seattle Met Magazine as “America’s Largest Festival of Beef” and the videos were created to promote the event throughout September and early October. They will also be shown on large screens throughout the weekend event.

The Clay Schuster Family, from Goldendale; El Oro Cattle Feeders in Moses Lake; and Coulee Flats Dairy in Mesa are the other faces of Cowabunga being featured in the videos this year. They can all be seen on the Beef Commission’s YouTube channel at WABeef.

Following Cowabunga, the videos will be repurposed to educate more consumers about modern beef production throughout the year. Last year, the promotion of similar producer videos achieved 2.1 million consumer impressions and 898,921 video views.

The videos featuring beef farmers and ranchers from Washington State are a local extension of the nationally funded “Rethink the Ranch” campaign created and launched last October. The campaign seeks to show the people, places and care required to grow nutritious beef for consumers. “Rethink the Ranch” is on track to achieve 80 million consumer impressions nationwide this year.

Building trust in beef and modern beef production is the primary focus of the Washington State Beef Commission with half of its promotion budget being invested in programs that provide a transparent window into the daily workings of ranches, farms, feedlots and packing plants from gate to plate. To learn more about this or any other Beef Checkoff program funded with your $1.50 Beef Checkoff investment, contact Patti Brumbach at 206.444.2902 or email her at pbrumbach@wabeef.org. Follow our activities targeting millennial consumers on social media at wabeef.org, Facebook.com/WABeef, Twitter@wabeef, YouTube@WABeef or Instagram@WABeefLove.
26th Annual Bull and Female Sale
November 1st, 2018

100 Fall Yearling Bulls
Sired by: Cowboy Up, Basin Payweight
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15 Registered Bred Females
Bred AI to Profile

40 Fancy Commercial Heifers
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Dr. Min Du’s research focuses on “developmental programming,” specifically the impacts of maternal nutritional and physiological factors on the development of fetal skeletal muscle and adipose tissue, and their long-term impacts on animal production efficiency and meat quality.

The fetal stage sets the stage for long-term growth of livestock, because all major milestones of animal development are accomplished inside the uterus, which is profoundly affected by dam nutrition. During fetal development, skeletal muscle and adipose tissue are particularly vulnerable to dam nutrient and physiological changes.

Since the vast majority of muscle fibers are formed around mid-gestation in beef cattle, poor cow nutrition can reduce muscle fiber number and thus muscle mass in offspring. Similarly, nutrient deficiency during late gestation and neonatal stages, when adipose tissues are actively developing, reduces overall fat cell formation including intramuscular fat (marbling).

Furthermore, cells forming marbling fat and connective tissue are derived from the same pool of ancestor cells, and better nutrition can promote the formation of fat cells while reducing connective tissue forming cells, improving beef marbling and tenderness.

The difference in the timing of development for different tissues and organs provides opportunities for stage-specific nutrient supplementation. For example, brain and cardiovascular systems are developed much earlier than muscle, bone and adipose during fetal development; visceral and subcutaneous fat are developed earlier than marbling fat.

As a result, stage-specific nutrient supplementation can promote the development of muscle or fat as desired. Compared with other livestock species, the duration of pregnancy and lactation stage of beef cattle is long, which provides unique advantages for stage-specific nutrient supplementation, achieving precision animal production management to improve fetal and neonatal development, thus improving production efficiency and meat quality in the subsequent cattle.
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An Update from Toni Meacham

Kids, water, convention take over summer

Well, it was a quick summer. The kids hit the ground running, taking cattle to jackpots anywhere they could convince us to drive. We ended the summer with three fairs, and all three of the older kids won a belt buckle for their hard work with their cattle. Summer doesn’t leave me much time for work, but I managed to take on a large Chapter 11 bankruptcy for a dairy, as well as stay on top of my other cases.

WOTUS

Aug. 16, 2018 WOTUS became an issue for Washington after a Federal Court in South Carolina granted an environmental motion stopping the EPA’s Feb. 6, 2020 applicability date to the 2015 Rule. The purpose of the EPA putting an applicability date out into 2020 was to allow time for the rule to be repealed prior to it going into effect. The Federal Court in South Carolina made WOTUS effective immediately in 26 states, Washington included. Legal action is expected in the South Carolina case to try to overrule this action. The EPA as well as parties to the lawsuit are expected to fight this ruling. On Sept. 12, 2018, a judge on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas issued a preliminary injunction (meaning it was entered to stop perceived harm and maintain the status quo versus an injunction that is issued on the merits of a case) preventing the WOTUS Rule from going into effect in Texas, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The court stopped short of issuing the nationwide injunction that plaintiff American Farm Bureau sought. Groups from each side of this matter will continue to try to find friendly courts as each side seeks to gain ground on this fight. WCA is involved in the WOTUS litigation and continues to support the Trump stance of repeal and replace WOTUS with law that allows landowners to use and control their own property.

Columbia River Treaty

Another matter that requires our attention is the Columbia River Treaty negotiations with Canada. As a landowner that uses irrigation water which comes out of the Columbia River, and a homeowner that uses power supplied by dams along the Columbia River, this treaty has the potential to significantly impact my life and that of my family and neighbors. This summer there has been progress on the treaty negotiations, as well as outreach and educational events for the public. The treaty negotiations themselves have been focused on the three main objectives: continued, careful management of flood risk; ensuring a reliable and economical power supply; and improving ecosystem benefits. These three objectives are on top of the overriding goal of modernization of the treaty itself. Negotiations have begun with the next negotiation session scheduled for October in Portland. There will be more town hall meetings scheduled in 2019 for the public to come listen and learn about the treaty negotiations as well as a chance for the public to give input on the process. Because the Columbia River is so integral to agriculture in Washington, it is imperative for
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Scholarships

Whitman Co. Cattlemen’s awards 2018 funds

The Whitman County Cattlemen’s Association awarded their 2018 scholarships to: Ali Hennigar of Colton, Brett Kincaid of Colfax, and Caleb Berquist of LaCrosse. Each student received $1,000 to help continue their education in an ag-related field.

The Whitman County Cattlemen’s Association also makes annual donations to the Palouse Empire Fair by awarding prizes for herdsmanship and supporting local cattle breeders.

4-H Herdsmanship Awards:
- 1st Place - Home Grown Wild group from Waitsburg, $100;
- 2nd Place - Tekoa 4-H, $75

FFA Herdsmanship Awards:
- 1st Place - Pullman FFA, $100;
- 2nd Place - LaCrosse FFA, $75

Home Grown Steer Awards:
- FFA - Riley Lamb from St. John/Endicott $100
- 4-H - Trace Hennigar from Colton, $100

WCCA is excited and proud to help encourage youth to participate in ag activities and celebrates those who choose agriculture as their chosen field and lifestyle!

Conference in October

Extension hosts Women in Agriculture Conference

Women (and men) from all over Washington are invited to attend an annual conference focusing on farm financial fitness.

The conference, “Pump Up Your Financial Fitness!” will be hosted as a videoconference Saturday, Oct. 27 at the following locations in Washington: Bremerton, Chehalis, Colville, Coupeville, Mount Vernon, Nespelem, Olympia, Pasco, Port Hadlock, Pullman, Renton, Republic, Ritzville, Spokane, Vancouver, Walla Walla, White Salmon, Wenatchee, and Yakima.

Featured speakers for the conference include Robin Reid, farm economist with Kansas State University Extension, LaVell Winsor, farm analyst with Kansas State University Extension, and Sarah Beth Aubrey, author, farmer, and principle at Aubrey Coaching & Training, LLC.

At the conclusion of the videoconference, the rest of the day will feature panel discussion with area women farmers.

For more information about the conference, visit WomenInAg.wsu.edu or contact Donna Rolen via email at donna.rolen@wsu.edu or by phone at 509-745-8531.
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- HEIFERS: every 1 month - especially 4 weeks before breeding

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Skinner Ranch, Jordan Valley, OR

"We use MULTIMIN® on the calves at birth. It does a great deal to boost their immune system and helps them get through that stress period of being born and getting up and going. MULTIMIN® is given at weaning to help reduce stress when the calves come off the cows."

Jonathan Perry
General Manager, Deer Valley Farm, Fayetteville, TN

"Our baby calves get MULTIMIN® at birth and again at branding. We feel that MULTIMIN® helps increase their immunity and improves the vaccination response. With MULTIMIN® we just aren’t treating for sickness."

Guy and Kyle Colyer
Colyer Hereford & Angus, Brumee, ID

"In our stocker cattle, we’re using a lot less antibiotics. They seem to have a good solid immune system. I believe 90% of the cattle are getting immune response from vaccine on the first shot just because of the way they act. They don’t break and we’re just not getting the number of pulls we used to."

Brook Kerr, DVM
Chad Kerr, DVM
Dodge City Veterinary Clinic, Dodge City, KS
Focus on the Future at the 2018 WCA/WCW Annual Convention

**Wednesday, November 7, 2018**

1:00 PM - 8:00 PM  Registration Desk Open

1:30 PM – 3:30 PM  Board of Directors Meeting

3:30 PM – 5:30 PM  Predator Strategy Work Session, John Robinson
Wolves, Cougars and Bears, Oh My!

5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  Kickoff Party in Tradeshow – come see what’s new!
Dinner on your own, heavy hors d’oeuvres in Tradeshow
Hospitality Suite hosted by Allied Industry, after dinner

**Thursday, November 8, 2018**

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM  Registration Desk Open
7:00 AM - 6:00 PM  Tradeshow Open
7:30 AM - 9:30 PM  WCW Silent Auction
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  Learning Lounge in Great Hall
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM  ESTATE PLANNING DISCUSSION
Lee Greene, General Estate Planning & Taxation
John Way, Moderator & Attorney
Brian Newhouse, Accounting
Randy Harvey, Benefits of Insurance as an Estate Planning Tool
WSU Research and Communications Update and Poster Display
10:30 AM - 11:00 AM  Coffee Break in Tradeshow
Learning Lounge speaker following coffee break
Karen Budd-Falen, Public Lands - your rights on public and private lands
Federal Lands Issues: ESA, ACE, EPA, etc.

12:00 PM - 1:30 PM  Welcome Lunch
Guest Speakers: Dr. Wright, WSU CAHNRS Dean &
Washington State Beef Commission
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM  State/Federal Agency Updates: WSDA, WDFW, NRCS, FSA, DOE
1:45 PM - 6:00 PM  WCW Annual Meeting

1:45 PM - 6:00 PM  WCA Committee Meetings
6:00 PM - 9:30 PM  ETF Social, Dinner and Auction in Tradeshow
Hospitality Suite hosted by Allied Industry, following auction

**Friday, November 9, 2018**

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM  Registration Desk Open
7:30 AM - 3:00 PM  Tradeshow Open
8:00 AM - 1:45 PM  WCW Silent Auction
7:30 AM - 12:00 PM  Learning Lounge
Molly Linville, Future of Fire Management, A Rancher’s Perspective
Nicole Harder, National FFA Beef Proficiency Finalist, Beef Industry’s Future
Tye Taylor, Starting Out, Providing communication services to the beef industry
Dione Mazzolini (FBI), Know Who is Touring Your Ranch, Agroterrorism
State and Federal Lobby Update: NCBA or PLC and Mark Streuli
Lunch in Tradeshow
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM  Lunch in Tradeshow
Introduction of WSBC BOD
Back by Popular Demand with New Information, KEYNOTE: Dr. John Church “Managing Cattle from Above: Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Precision Ranching”

**Don’t miss your chance to catch up with friends**

**WCW Annual Meeting**

**Annual WCA Committee Meetings**

**Social Cowboy Gala**

**Annual WCA Committee Meetings**

**KEYNOTE:**
WCA Officer Transition Recognition
WCW Cattlewoman of the Year
WCA Top Hand Award
WCW Card Game
Desert Auction
2018 WCA/WCW Annual Convention

Focus on the Future at the 2018 WCA/WCW Annual Convention

Friday, November 9, 2018

Registration Desk Open
Tradeshow Open
WCW Silent Auction
Learning Lounge in Great Hall
Molly Linville, Future of Fire Management, A Rancher’s Perspective
Nicole Harder, National FFA Beef Proficiency Finalist, Beef Industry’s Future
Tye Taylor, Starting Out, Providing communication services to the beef industry
Dione Mazzolini (FBI), Know Who is Touring Your Ranch, Agroterrorism
State and Federal Lobby Update: NCBA or PLC and Mark Streuli
Coffee Break in Tradeshow
Learning Lounge speakers following coffee break
Jack Field, Overview of Pasture, Range and Forage Program
Virginia Nicholson, Water & Ecology Update
WRLC – Report of Recent Activities including Grizzly Bear and Hangman Creek
Lunch in Tradeshow
Introduction of WSBC BOD
Back by Popular Demand with New Information, KEYNOTE: Dr. John Church “Managing Cattle from Above: Use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles for Precision Ranching”

WCW Annual Meeting
Annual WCA Membership Meeting
Dan McCarty, NCBA
David Lazorik, Investment Report: ETF and WCA Reserve Funds
Social Cowboy Gala
Dinner Cowboy Gala
KEYNOTE: Dr. Paige Pratt, Pratt Cattle Company
WCA Officer Transition Recognition
WCW Cattlewoman of the Year
WCA Top Hand Award
WCW Card Game
Desert Auction

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[Connealy Packer 547 x Mytty Blackcap 8/R]
Bred to Tehama Tahoe B767

Crouthamel Blackcap 7561 - 19079720
[Connealy Packer 547 x Mytty Blackcap 8/R]
Bred to Tehama Tahoe B767

Crouthamel Countess 7055 - 19077337
[Crouthamel Protocol 3022 x Sitz Upward 307R]
Bred to S Powerpoint WS 5503

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An Update from Washington Ag in the Classroom

New books, lesson plans are on the way

Summer is over and school is in full swing with fall just around the corner! Summer was packed with fairs and displays, with volunteers working to promote Washington Ag in the Classroom and organizations close to their hearts! WAIC participated in a teacher workshop in Spokane where we were able to present teachers with accurate lesson plans and materials that they can use in their classrooms K-12. We’ve been looking into how to hold more teacher workshops as this would be impactful for years to come.

With the end of summer comes the launching of yet another school year! The summer box closes and the fall one opens!

We are busily working on the first issue of the Ag @ School magazine which will be mailed out the end of October to 10,000 students across Washington state! WAIC’s generous donors will receive a copy as well as the 2017-2018 school year accomplishments.

We’ve also selected and purchased our new book to read to classrooms across the state, John Deere— that’s Who!

We are working on primary grade lesson plans to accompany the book and equip our volunteers. CattleWomen, look for them at convention in November!

Because school is in full swing, and it’s a new mailing cycle for Ag@School, NOW is a perfect time to contact teachers, introduce yourself, talk about how to include agriculture in their curriculum, and possibly volunteer! YOU are the FACE of agriculture and have an incredible story to tell! Please feel free to contact me for information and materials!
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Jeff Dawson

Yakima County
Amanda Carey,
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is Nov. 7-9! We have been working hard to put together a program you will find interesting and beneficial. I encourage you to look through the Ketch Pen for the schedule of events. We are excited to have a diverse trade show and we even have some new businesses coming this year!

During our recent Executive Committee Meeting, Patti Brumbach shared an update about the promotional activities and upcoming events for the Washington State Beef Commission. Not ones to waste an opportunity, we also asked for Patti’s advice about how to talk about and engage in discussion about the ongoing predator issue. The WSBC cannot engage in policy discussions. But, she did offer to help us find someone who can help us fine-tune our message – we care about our livestock and predators impact our ability to provide the best care we can – and help us to determine how best to deliver that message.

At the annual WCA/WCW Convention on Wednesday afternoon from 3:30 to 5:30, we will have a Predator Strategy Work Session – Wolves, Cougars and Bears Oh My! John Robinson will facilitate the session and provide training about how to develop and deliver our message.

SUMMER

those of us in ag to pay attention to these negotiations and to make sure we don’t assume our interests are being adequately represented. It is an election year, let’s remind our elected officials the voting power that those of us in ag have, and ask them to remember to represent our interests too.

Corps of Engineers

This summer Sarah, Kim Weerts, and I have spent some time in Whitman County working on Army Corps of Engineer issues pertaining to adjacent landowners. Karen Budd-Falen and her husband Frank flew out from Wyoming to meet with us and tour the Snake River area. We were able to see how the Corps lands are intermixed with our members’ lands. Many of our members still remember when the Corps took these lands from their families when the dams came in. With the old management style, these cattlemen were able to continue to use what they considered “their” land to operate their cattle operations. Now, with the new management of the Corps, these same cattlemen are considered trespassers. We held a two-day meeting with more than 30 ranchers present to talk about how they have been impacted and their concerns with the Corps. Currently Karen and I are representing one such rancher in his fight against the Corps, as the Corps has sued him in Federal Court for this alleged trespass. While at this meeting, we became aware that the Corps had developed a document called the Lower Granite Lock and Dam Master Plan. The WCA took time to write and submit comment to the Corps on their proposed plan. This is the plan that is used to govern the Corps’ actions and how they manage public property under Corps management. Said plan identified erosion due to agriculture practices as a main factor in sedi-
mentation entering the river; identified that the Corps sees encroachments by adjacent landowners and their cattle now as a trespass when said landowners historically have used the ground with permission, and no fence separates the properties due to topography; and identified that the Corps may have allowed invasive species to grow in Corps managed lands. These are just a few of the issues the WCA had to comment on in this proposed plan. The plan, overall, was very negative toward agriculture activities. The WCA drafted comment to try to point out the erroneous information contained in the plan and force the Corps to propose a plan that is fair to all adjacent landowners along the Snake River. We will continue to monitor this plan and work to represent the cattlemen that could be impacted.

DOE

At the state level, everyone should know by now that Kelly Susewind joined the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) as director in August 2018, after spending 28 years at the Washington Department of Ecology. Kelly was second only to Maia Bellon at DOE and was one of the main people the WCA worked with on water issues at DOE. This now leaves his position open at DOE. We are dealing with Heather Bartlett at DOE until Kelly’s position is filled. The next DOE Water and Ecology meeting will be held Oct. 3 at the Union Gap DOE office. DOE is still pursuing ag operations that they feel are a threat to water quality. Continuing to monitor riparian areas and take water samples has never been more important than it is currently. With the Hangman Creek DOE settlement document and implementation beginning, ranchers need to continue to be on the offense, and be ready to prove that your actions do not harm water quality. You must prove that you are innocent. I understand that everyone wants me to be a typical attorney and assure you that you are innocent until proven guilty, but when it comes to water quality and ag, we must show that our actions don’t harm riparian areas and do not impair water quality. Documentation, pictures, and expert help are the three best pieces of evidence a landowner can have, and continue to get, to prove that you are a good steward of the land and the water that runs through it. Be proactive!

Convention

Convention is just around the corner. I will be the moderator again for convention on Thursday.

Much of my law practice focuses on ag, which includes estate and succession planning. As a multigenerational rancher, I have seen first-hand both what good planning can do, and bad. I think the convention will be very educational as we are trying to bring some outside of the box presenters to help us all focus on the future. For those of you that have it all figured out, there should still be some new information presented, as well as many people that can be a resource for any questions or concerns. Convention is one of my favorite events as I get to see friends that I only see once per year. It is in Kennewick again, at the same great location. Easy access, lots of hotels, and entertainment for all. Hopefully we have a really good turnout. I hope to see you there!
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