Washington State Department of Agriculture
Fairs Commissioners

- Welcome!
- Observations
- Resources
- Q & A

October 2015
FIRST OF ALL...

Meet our commissioners!

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Agricultural Fairs

Since 1961, state law has declared that it is in the public interest to hold agricultural fairs.

“...promoting agriculture by including a balanced variety of exhibits of livestock and agricultural products, as well as related arts and manufactures; including products of the farm home, and educational contests, displays, and demonstrations designed to train youth and to promote the welfare of farm people and rural living.”

RCW 15.76.100 & .110
Ron Crawford

Fairs Commissioner Starting 2014
Demonstrations

Great way to educate us about the way it was done in the past!

Lewis County Spring Youth Fair (Chehalis)
Demonstrations

Exhibitor on hand to provide additional information and answer questions about the turbine

Lewis County Spring Youth Fair (Chehalis)
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

- Nice way to involve kids
- Parents enjoy watching
- Grandparents too!

Grant County Fair (Moses Lake)
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

- Make sure there are activities for kids....

Makes lasting memories – builders get to take their bird houses and enjoy watching birds make them home.

Grant County Fair (Moses Lake)
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

- Again, make sure there are activities for kids....
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

Great way for kids to experience farm animals!

Kalama Community Fair
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

Some friendly, fun competition!

Good way to involve kids

Thurston County Fair (Lacey)
Hands-on Educational Activities

• Great hands-on activity

• Staff on hand to provide assistance and answer questions

• Interesting way to learn how our food is made

Skamania County Fair (Stevenson)
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

More activities for kids....

Doesn’t mean it needs to be elaborate!

Skamania County Fair (Stevenson)
Fairgrounds

Skamania County Fair (Stevenson)

- Horse barn
- Nice facility
- Multi-functional
- Set up to use year around
Fairgrounds

- Livestock barn
- Multi-functional
- Set up to use year around

Skamania County Fair (Stevenson)
Debbie Adolphsen

Fairs Commissioner Starting 2010
Educational

- Hands-on!
- Educates us about where our food comes from

NW Washington Fair (Lynden)
Educational

- Easy to get up close and hands-on!
- Demonstrations were right with the exhibits -- good opportunity for questions and information

Clark County Fair (Vancouver)
Educational

- Nicely displays the importance of agriculture
- Good way to highlight the economic impact of agriculture

Agriculture Production in Whatcom County

Local farms produced nearly $358 Million of agricultural products in 2012. When processing and support industries are included, Whatcom County Agriculture contributes nearly $2 Billion to our local economy!

2012 Whatcom County

- Dairy Products: $259,042,000 - 54%
- Fruits, Nuts, Berries: $79,978,000 - 22.4%
- Cattle, Calves: $74,315,000 - 16.8%
- Nursery: $18,697,000 - 4.2%
- Poultry, Eggs: $14,643,000 - 4.1%
- Vegetables: $11,093,000 - 2.3%
- Other Products: $9,043,000 - 2.6%
- Other Animal, Aquaculture, Christmas Trees: $3,683,000 - 1%

NW Washington Fair (Lynden)
Educational

- Handouts are easy way to educate the public
- Public appreciates picking up recipes, nutritional info.

NW Washington Fair (Lynden)
Educational

• Great way to involve kids that have not been involved in gardening
• Learn about vegetables while making their creatures

NW Washington Fair (Lynden)
Educational

Rabbit art exhibit

Hands on – best way to teach!

Touch the rabbits and ask questions

Clark County Fair (Vancouver)
Educational

- Fun photo opportunity in the agriculture tent
- Important to keep the fun in our exhibits!

NW Washington Fair (Lynden)
Educational

Horse cartoons add a fun touch, but still educational

- These were hanging on the goat pens, lift the board and get the answer
- More interesting than reading a poster
Jim Beck

Fairs Commissioner Starting 2014
Fair Themes

Fair float used as center point of grounds
Fair Themes

Clever play on words

Clallam County Fair (Port Angeles)
Activities

Special church service on very slow Sunday morning – held in barn pavilion
Educational

Some shows are encouraging younger kids to show “Pee Wee Cowpokes”
Educational

Old school building saved by moving to fairgrounds

School in session on day 3rd graders visit
Fairgrounds

New style horse wash racks

New gazebo gets lots of use
Fun, Interactive Activities for Kids

- No sand
- No sawdust
- Used wheat!
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

Arrangements add a lot to the show!

Walla Walla Frontier Days
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

A different touch to photo display

Walla Walla Frontier Days
Great Use of Signage

- Direction and sign of coming events are very helpful
- Doesn’t have to be elaborate
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

Community farmer’s market put up nice display

Show off the best!

Walla Walla Frontier Days
Educational

Materials show different cuts of pork

Wool spinners display of different wool samples
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

Clallam County Fair (Port Angeles)

Asotin County Fair (Asotin)
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

Attractive, easy to see
Educational

Very tame turkey – unusual attraction for kids

Asotin County Fair (Asotin)
Nice Display

• Nice job decorating the rabbit displays
• Extra effort appreciated!
Displays

Beautiful quilts, but unimpressive display

Background too busy to read the words
Trish Myers

Fairs Commissioner Starting 2006
Educational

Tests your knowledge about weeds

West Valley Fair (Yakima)
Great Use of Signage

- Informative
- Easy to read
- Able to identify the exhibitor category at a glance

Stanwood-Camano Community Fair
Fairgrounds

- Clean, convenient facilities
- Portable handwashing stations

Stanwood-Camano Community Fair
Fairgrounds

Nice area to relax with the family

Stanwood-Camano Community Fair
Fairgrounds

- Rebuilt from the ashes
- Beautiful new barn!

Wheat Land Communities Fair (Ritzville)
Fair Themes

Wheat Land Communities Fair (Ritzville)
Fair Themes

Kittitas County Fair (Ellensburg)

“Diamonds and Denim” theme throughout fair
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

- Visually pleasing
- Jean pockets clever way to display brochures!

Kittitas County Fair (Ellensburg)
Educational

Question / answer – great way to get interest and educate

Kittitas County Fair (Ellensburg)
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

Central Washington State Fair (Yakima)
Simple Displays Can Be Effective

Clever play on words

Central Washington State Fair (Yakima)
Educational

Stanwood Fair

Youth get to showcase all their hard work

What an impressive steer!

Wheat Land Communities Fair (Ritzville)
Educational

West Valley Fair (Yakima)

Exhibitors on hand to provide additional information and answer questions about their chickens

Stanwood-Camano Community Fair
Larry Nelson
Fairs Commissioner Starting 2013
Community Involvement

Add 12 players on these cross poles and a ball and you have live action foosball.

Big straw bale maze.
Signage

Large, attractive signs
Fun design!

NE Washington Fair (Colville)
Fairgrounds

Flowers break up the long fair buildings with metal siding

NE Washington Fair (Colville)
Displays

Nice display of herbs and a mailbox with brochures on how to plant a herb garden

NE Washington Fair (Colville)
Signage

- Large 4’x8’, attractive signs
- Lots of information provided

Spokane Interstate Fair
Photo Op

- Photo stations for family fun
- Provides opportunities for fairgoers to take pictures and post on Facebook
Displays

A tree to bring attention to breast cancer

Spokane Interstate Fair

Revolving 3-sided display of the best of show

SE Spokane County Fair (Rockford)
Recruiting for

FAIRS
COMMISSIONER

We are recruiting for one new Fairs Commissioner. This exciting opportunity could be yours if you are interested and qualified (and living west of the Cascades)....

WE WANT YOU!
Capital Improvement Grant Funds Available

- $2M available
- Applications due 11/18/15
- Forms sent to fairs in mid-August
THANK YOU FOR JOINING US!