



WSPF HAPPENINGS

APRIL-JUNE 2008

Excellence in Agriculture Scholarships Awarded to 15 students

The WSPF awarded an all time high of \$31,000 in **Excellence In Agriculture Scholarships**. The volunteer committee of 7 sought students from all over the state who were interested in pursuing an agriculture degree and working in the industry.



A pool of over 40 candidates applied to receive awards between \$1500-\$5000 for the 2008-2009 academic school year.

One of our scholarship superstars this year (awarded a \$5K scholarship to WSU) is Balunkewar Nayak who is pursuing a PhD in Food Engineering in the Dept of Biological Engineering. His research focuses on developing of nutritionally enhanced food products from Washington state (specifically examining color potatoes). "Balu" grew up on a paddy-farm in India.

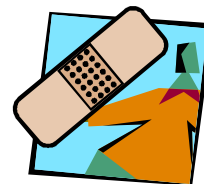
In contrast to this advanced degree student the WSPF was also able to award scholarships to two trade school students. Austin Carley and Cameron Falter, both from Perry Technical Institute are working in agriculture and pursuing Instrumentation certifications. Their scholarships were underwritten by Connell Oil and PJ Taggares Company.

This year a total of 9 scholarships were underwritten by corporations or private sources including: Agri-NW x 2, Baker Produce, Connell Oil/Pacific Pride, J.R.Simplot Corporation (Michael F. Moores Memorial Scholarship), P.J. Taggares Inc, Skone and Connors, Washington Trust Bank and Otto Geisert Leadership Scholarship.

WSPF Underwrites First Aid Training for 2nd Year

A total of nearly 50 individuals participated in First Aid Training in March and April of this year. Courses were offered in Moses Lake, Othello and Pasco in both Spanish and English.

WSPF will offer additional courses FREE OF CHARGE to growers/vendors in September and February .



Simplot Steps Up as Summer Intern Sponsor

Simplot Grower Solutions has agreed to partner with the Washington State Potato Foundation to place interns in PAID positions for the summer. In exchange for their 8-12 week job experience, the WSPF agrees to pay a \$2000 scholarship towards their ag-related degree.

This year Derik LaFave (son of John and Diane LaFave, from LaFave Farms) was selected to be the first ever recipient of this exciting Simplot/WSPF Partnership. He is currently working as an Assistant to the Crop Advisor in Quincy. His days are filled with taking petioles, water monitoring, field scouting, doing chemigation, checking tanks and delivering chemicals. In the fall he will return to WSU where he will be a Junior studying Ag Economics and Crop Science. He is also a past (and current) recipient of the Excellence in Agriculture Scholarship.



ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

- The Paul Lauzier Foundation has funded an additional \$2500 matching grant for grower education for 2008-2009.
- WSPF Training grants will be available on the web (for growers) between October-December at www.WaSpuds.org
- The next meeting(s) of the Board of Directors is **June 13th** in Othello & **September 25th** in Moses Lake.
- Potato Field Day shall be underwritten by funds raised by the WSPF on June 27, 2008

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Golf Tourney Aspires to Break Records

(over 41 teams prepare for the Links on June 30, 2008)

The invasion of "white pick-ups" is planned at Meadow Springs Country Club in Richland for the **WSPF Summer Golf Tournament**. Two flights are planned (7:30 am and 2:30 pm) as well as some top notch "sportsman friendly" tee prizes. Lunch and Entertainment (sponsored by **Friehe Farms** and **Bayer Crop Science**) is new and exciting this year with the "GOLF ENTERTAINER" who will do some instruction, trick shots and comedy impressions. Look out, he might even be on the course offering to "sell you his best drive" if you need some extra "oomph" down the fairway.



The tournament aspires to raise over \$50,000 this year. A Few Team spots, individual spots and hole sponsorships are available until June 25th!

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS OR FEEDBACK ARE WELCOME.

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