



Washington State Dairy Federation  
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[www.wastatedairy.com](http://www.wastatedairy.com)



# Save the Date

## Dairy Ambassador Coronation June 20, 2014

Come and celebrate the coronation of this year's Dairy Ambassador in Everett, at the

**Holiday Inn  
3105 Pine Street  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-339-2000**



## WA State Dairy Industry Annual Meeting November 10-11 Heathman Lodge, 7801 NE Greenwood Drive Vancouver, WA

To make room reservations contact the Heathman Lodge at (360) 254-3100 or online at <http://www.heathmanlodge.com/>



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## Upcoming Events

### JUNE

19 & 20 - WDPC Regular Commission Mtg, Lynnwood, WA

20 - Washington State Dairy Ambassador Coronation, Holiday Inn, Everett, WA

20 - WSDF Board of Director Mtg, Holiday Inn, Everett, WA

### AUGUST

6 & 7 - WDPC Regular Commission Mtg, Lynnwood, WA

### SEPTEMBER

23 & 24 - WDPC Regular Commission Meeting

### NOVEMBER

Washington State Dairy Industry Annual Mtg November 10 & 11, Heathman Lodge, Vancouver, Washington

WSDF has a **NEW** website, see our new and informative site at [www.wastatedairy.com](http://www.wastatedairy.com)

Sign up to receive your electronic **FREE** subscription to our weekly & quarterly newsletters by calling the office or emailing [Darcel.WSDF@gmail.com](mailto:Darcel.WSDF@gmail.com)

# Milk Matters

[www.wastatedairy.com](http://www.wastatedairy.com)

Newsletter Date: May 2014

## WSDF Board Changes

We would like to give a special thank you to Bill Scheenstra who served on the WSDF Board of Directors for over six years. Bill submitted his resignation earlier this year due to time constraints. Thank you very much, Bill, for your time and contribution to the Board!

In a special election held in recent weeks in District 3, Art Mensonides was elected to Position 8. Art brings to the Board extensive years of dairying experience as well as serving as ex-officio in 2013. We look forward to his involvement and support to the dairy farmers in the State.

In addition, we welcome Terry Lenssen, producer out of Lynden, to the Western Washington Ex-Officio position to the Board. Thank you, Terry for joining us!

## Capitol Beef & Dairy Days serve 3200



Washington State Dairy Ambassador Erin Peek greets one of the 1400 who turned out for Beef Day. Dairy Ambassadors distributed 1800 ice cream bars

on Dairy Day, and the legislative reception attracted a full house of Officials and their staff as they visited with dairy farmers.

## Help Us Honor Lynne Schmoe

Whether you were a Darigold producer, in the Young Cooperators program, or a producer who met her through her work at the Dairy Products Commission, you know Lynne.

Please join us in honoring her service as she has retired.

Join us June 19 @ 5:00 PM at Jim and Deloris Werkhoven's Dairy at 17920 183rd Ave SE in Monroe.

Please RSVP to [Linda.WSDF@gmail.com](mailto:Linda.WSDF@gmail.com)

## WSDF's New Staff Member

The WSDF would like to welcome our newest staff member, Linda Capps, as our part-time Office Assistant

Linda has held office assistant positions for the last 19 years, ranging in assorted industries from a high-end fashion house in Los Gatos, California, a public relations/advertising firm in Modesto, California, to a small manufacturing company in McCleary, Washington, just to name a few. Linda and her family moved to the Lewis County/Grays Harbor area in 2009, after purchasing a 19+ acre parcel off of Garrard Creek Road in the Oakville area where she and her husband (Robert) care for their Boer/Myotonic goat herd and assorted chickens, while raising their two beautiful granddaughters, who attend school in the Elma.

**WSDF**  
Board of Directors

President  
Chris Sybrandy  
Vice President  
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Tony Freeman  
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John Brunoff  
Tom DeVries  
Art Mensonides  
Ed Zurcher

West. WA Ex-Officio  
Terry Lenssen

East. WA Ex-Officio  
Position not filled

### Members!

Got a new email  
address?  
Just signed up for  
email?

Let us know so that  
you can receive your  
edition of our free  
weekly and quarterly  
newsletter that's  
relevant to you and  
your dairy business  
by emailing  
[Darcel.WSDF@gmail.com](mailto:Darcel.WSDF@gmail.com)  
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### Federal Issues in Brief

by Dan Wood

Read more on these topics at [www.wastatedairy.com](http://www.wastatedairy.com).

#### Federal Overtime Pay

In mid-March, President Barack Obama announced he signed a memorandum directing Secretary of Labor Perez to update the federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), saying his intent is to require overtime wages to be paid to more people who are currently considered salaried.

Currently, employees who are employed in agriculture are exempt from the overtime pay provisions of the FLSA. They do not have to be paid time-and-one-half for hours worked in excess of a forty-hour week.

#### Waters of the U.S.

The EPA & Corps of Engineers released a proposed rule to include seasonal streams, ditches, and more in the definition of "waters of the U.S." and subjecting routine farming activities to a permit requirement under the federal Clean Water Act.

This would place new burdens on farms already using best management practices for water quality and water conservation. Legislation similar to the proposed rules has failed to pass Congress.

A majority of the House of Representatives signed a letter objecting to the proposed rule.

#### FARM BILL Pushes Back on Big Buffers

At the request of the Dairy Federation, Rep. DeBene was able to have language inserted into the "managers' report" that accompanied the bill out of conference committee. President Obama signed the bill in February.

"The Managers are concerned by reports that Federal agencies other than USDA, as well as State and local governments, are seeking to impose more stringent and larger buffer requirements on land being enrolled in USDA conservation programs. The Managers expect NRCS to continue to utilize their own Field Office Technical Guide and conservation planning tools to determine what is reasonable and needed to accomplish the natural resource concerns to be addressed."

At issue was the insistence of NOAA Fisheries that NRCS require farmers to use their excessive buffer recommendations as a condition of participation in conservation programs.

#### Dairy Policy Changes in Farm Bill

The Dairy Product Price Support Program, Dairy Export Incentive Program and Federal Milk Marketing Order Review Commission were each repealed by the 2014 Farm Bill.

### Federal Issues in Brief (continued) ....

The new Dairy Margin Program (replacing price support in MILC by September 1) allows producers to purchase insurance for margins that are calculated as the difference between an average national milk price and the cost of dairy feed. The lowest level of insurance can be purchased for a \$4.00 margin and, in \$0.50 increments, up to an \$8.00 margin per hundredweight.

Programs continued in the 2014 Farm Bill include:

- Dairy Forward Pricing Program (allows producers to participate in forward pricing contracts with pooled milk handlers)
- Dairy Indemnity Payment Program (payment to producers for certain unfit milk)
- Dairy Promotion & Research Program (increasing dairy demand through promotion, research and education programs)
- ("permanent law") Milk Price Support Program (federal government purchase of butter, cheese and nonfat dry milk if prices drop too low)

Details are still being written. When announced, the sign-up period could be 90-120 days in length. Close observers predict rules will be issued some time during summer 2014.

#### FDA Backs off from Brewers' Grain Attack

In late April, the FDA backed off from a proposed rule that would have made it too expensive to use brewers' grain for livestock feed. The FDA said its rule was prompted by the presence of melamine in pet food coming from China.

Brewers already have inspections and standards for human health, and pointed out that Chinese-made pet food was unrelated to their processes and byproducts.

Voices from the dairy industry and members of Congress also urged FDA to back off.

They did. But, they are an agency. And so...The FDA plans to release revised rules this summer and will seek comments before issuing a final rule.

This one is clearly a solution in search of a problem. — Dan Wood

### 2014 Legislative Session in Brief

by Dan Wood

The 60-day legislative session ended March 13, with the adoption of a small supplemental operating budget and no supplemental capital budget.

#### Highlights:

- ⇒ No tax increases on agriculture
- ⇒ The Legislature failed to fund the Voluntary Stewardship Program, a collaborative program designed to create programs to protect the environment and protect agricultural activities at the same time.
- ⇒ Passage of a Water Quality Credit Trading Program, proposed by the dairy industry, to create more market forces to improve the environment and reward producers who make improvements.
- ⇒ The Legislature failed to address flooding, erosion and loss of prime farmland caused by excess accumulation of gravel and sediment in rivers across the state.