

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #70 Meeting Summary

DATE: June 14, 2007

LOCATION: Walla Walla Regional Airport, Walla Walla WA.

<u>Members Present</u>		<u>Representing</u>
Karen Wood-Chair	Air Quality Program	Department of Ecology
Larry Cochran	Grower	Conservation Districts
Jay Penner	Washington Association of Wheat Growers	Agricultural Community
Michael Ingham	Alfalfa Seed Industry	Agricultural Community
Dave Lauer	Benton County Clean Air Authority	Eastern Washington Local Air Authorities
Michael Bush	WSU Extension	Academia, (Tree Fruit)
Don Potts	WA. Dept of Agricultural	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Chris Simpson (alternate)	University Of Washington	Public Health
<u>Members Absent</u>		
John Cornwall	Grass Seed Industry	Grass Seed Industry
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)

Introductions, Announcements

The 70th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on June 14th, 2006 at the Walla Walla Regional Airport in Walla Walla, Washington. The Task Force meeting began with the introduction of Task Force members and guests.

The June meeting of the Task Force is normally reserved for hearing research project proposals. The Task Force recommends which projects they would like to fund and the amount of funding they would like to provide. Lastly, the Task Force considers revising, amending, and approving the Best Management Practices, (BMP's) for the upcoming year.

Research Presentations

The Task Force received final reports and heard proposals for continuing research on three lines of inquiry:

1. Alternatives to Burning and The Effects on Insect, Weed, and Disease Pests in Alfalfa Seed Fields (pesticide application shows promise as an alternative to burning alfalfa seed fields)
2. Straw Utilization for Fiber-Based Materials (wheat straw is now being used in commercial paper-making at a mill in Yakima)
3. Development of High Yielding Turf-type Kentucky Bluegrass Varieties for Non-burn (several strains of Kentucky blue grass show great potential as no-burn seed varieties in Washington)

One new research proposal requesting funds from the Task Force was presented. The title was “Reduced Burning by wider Canola Seed Row Spacing.”

Task Force Recommendation

The Task Force recommended funding all of the research proposals at levels slightly less than was being sought (~95%) due to an overage in the amount requested versus the amount available. The funded research will be carried out in the next two years with final reports due June, 2009. The amounts awarded are:

\$84,826 for the alfalfa seed project
\$80,115 for the straw utilization project
\$14,000 for the grass seed project
\$15,059 for the Canola project.

BMP's

One of the required activities at the June meeting of the Agricultural Burning Task Force is either to modify or reconfirm existing Best Management Practices (BMP's), and to institute new BMP's.

The Agricultural Burning Task Force reinstated the orchard BMP with no changes by unanimous vote. It is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Orchard_BMP_07.pdf

The Agricultural Burning Task Force reinstated the non-cereal BMP with no changes by unanimous vote. It is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Non_Cereal_BMP_07.pdf

The Task Force decided to modify the cereal grain BMP, allowing for goat grass and downy brome control and fertilizer application thru heavy fall-residue followed by spring wheat seeding. The Task Force voted to modify the existing BMP and instate the modified BMP unanimously. This BMP is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Cereal_BMP_07.pdf

The Task Force reinstated the Spot Burn BMP with no changes by unanimous vote. It is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Spot_Burn_BMP_07.pdf

The Task Force instituted a small change in the Bale Burn BMP to allow for the bales to continue to burn after designated burn hours, as with the orchard burn BMP and permits. The changes were made by unanimous vote. The modified BMP is available at:

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Bale_Burn_BMP_07.pdf

The newly instituted BMPs are valid through June 30, 2008.