

Agricultural Burning Practices & Research Task Force #76 Meeting Summary

DATE: June 9, 2009

LOCATION: Department of Ecology Eastern Regional Office, Spokane 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)
Jeff Canaan	WA. Dept of Agricultural	WA. Dept. of Agriculture
Dan McCarthy	Okanogan Horticultural Association	Agricultural Community
Charles Golob (alternate for Bill Johnston)	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
<u>Members Absent</u>		
John Cornwall	Grass Seed Industry	Grass Seed Industry
Bill Johnston	Washington State University	Academia, (Crop & Soil)
Sverre Vedal	University Of Washington	Public Health

Introductions, Announcements

The 76th Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force (Task Force) meeting was held on June 9th, 2009 at the Department of Ecology's Eastern Regional Office in Spokane, 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 from four research projects.

1. Alternatives to Burning Crop Residues in Alfalfa Grown for Seed.
2. Straw Utilization for Fiber-Based Materials.
3. Kentucky Bluegrass for Non-burn Seed Production.
4. Reduced Burning by wider Canola Seed Row Spacing.

The Task Force also heard presentations from seven researchers with proposals to conduct research responding to Ecology's Request for Proposals (RFP Number ECY 0924AQP)

The presentations were, in order:

Alternatives to Burning Crop Residues in Alfalfa Grown for Seed: Economic/Pest Management Impacts and Interactions between Selected Burning Alternatives and Precision Crop Spacing

Reduced Burning By Wider Canola Seed Row Spacing

Conversion of Kentucky Bluegrass Straw to Energy: An Alternative to open Field Burning

Straw Management and Crop Rotation Alternatives to Burning Wheat Stubble: Assessing Economic and Environmental Trade-offs

Mobile Pyrolysis and Utilization of by-Products to Eliminate Emissions from Agricultural Burning

Cereal Straw Utilization for Fibers and Chemicals

Development of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars for Non-burn Seed Production

Task Force Recommendation

The Task Force recommended funding the [Reduced Burning By Wider Canola Seed Row Spacing](#) proposal at the full amount of \$5,000, and the [Cereal Straw Utilization for Fibers and Chemicals](#) proposal at the full amount of \$100,000.

The Task Force also recommended funding the [Straw Management and Crop Rotation Alternatives to Burning Wheat Stubble: Assessing Economic and Environmental Trade-offs](#) proposal at the full amount of \$45,000, with the requirement that the project be modified to include continuous winter wheat as one of the crop-rotations examined in the study.

The Task Force also recommended funding the [Alternatives to Burning Crop Residues in Alfalfa Grown for Seed: Economic/Pest Management Impacts and Interactions between Selected Burning Alternatives and Precision Crop Spacing](#) proposal for one crop-year plus the outreach component at the amount of \$30,000, rather than the \$62,326 in the proposal.

The Task Force also recommended funding the [Development of Kentucky Bluegrass Cultivars for Non-burn Seed Production](#) project at the amount of \$14,000, rather than the \$15,000 in the proposal.

The Task Force did not recommend funding the **Conversion of Kentucky Bluegrass Straw to Energy: An Alternative to open Field Burning** or the **Mobile Pyrolysis and Utilization of by-Products to Eliminate Emissions from Agricultural Burning** projects.

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/Orchard09-10.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-cereal09-10.pdf

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

http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/Cereal09-10.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/SpotBurn09-10.pdf

The Task Force reinstated the Bale Burn BMP with no changes by unanimous vote. It is available at: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/air/aginfo/research_pdf_files/BaleBurn09-10.pdf

The newly instituted BMPs are valid through June 30, 2010.

Agricultural Burning Fees Discussion

The Task Force revisited the issue of agricultural burning fees. In the last meeting, members discussed several ideas for dividing agricultural burning permit fee revenue, and ultimately decided to raise the fee for agricultural burning from \$2.25/acre to the maximum allowable amount under the law, \$2.50 per acre; with the research portion to be decreased from \$0.50/acre to \$0.25/acre, the local administration portion to remain at \$1.25/acre, and the Ecology portion to remain at \$0.50/acre, with the remaining \$0.50 per acre to go towards smoke management, smoke management to be local air authorities in areas where local air authorities have jurisdiction, and Ecology where Ecology has jurisdiction.

This was reviewed, with Jay Penner questioning the outcome. Ecology staff will provide the tape of the applicable part of the meeting to Mr. Penner.

Karen Wood explained to the Task Force that to raise the permit fee would require a change in the Washington Administrative Code (WAC). She said it was Ecology's intent to initiate such a limited change to the rule starting in the Fall of 2009, which she hoped could be finalized some time in 2010.

The Task Force decided to make no more changes to the fees at this time.

Public Comment

Time was allowed for public comment, but none was offered.

Next Meeting

The next meeting (Meeting #77) of the Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force will be on Tuesday, November 10th, 2009, from 10am to 4pm in Spokane, Washington.