



AGRICULTURE AND RURAL CAUCUS **2005** **ARC** **2010**

The Agriculture and Rural Caucus (**ARC**) of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee (**WSDCC**) was founded at the January 2005 reorganization meeting of WSDCC in Olympia, Washington. As such ARC is an officially recognized organization of WSDCC.

The purpose of ARC, as stated in the ARC By-Laws, shall be to “identify existing problems and common goals as relate to the agricultural and rural communities of Washington State. ARC shall join together in common cause through education, lobbying and demonstrating to advance and protect our rural and agricultural communities so vital to Washington State. ARC shall also assist Democratic Party candidates in promoting and advising them on campaign issues and strategies”

Membership in ARC is county based. Each of Washington’s thirty-nine counties is entitled to three voting members: the Chair of the County Democratic Central Committee, and two other selected members, one male and one female. Non-voting membership is open to any Democrat who is registered to vote in the State of Washington. ARC has regular business meetings held in conjunction with the quarterly meetings of WSDCC. ARC brings together Western and Eastern rural Washington communities to speak as one voice within WSDCC.

Accomplishments of ARC

Representation: ARC takes seriously its charge to promote agriculture and rural concerns particularly within WSDCC, including:

- (1) WSDCC Platform: emphasis on crafting the Agriculture Plank (see Attachment A) and relevant portions of other Planks, including non-mention/exclusion of “gun control” and “breach the dams”,
- (2) WSDCC Resolutions: proposing and endorsing resolutions favorable to agriculture and rural communities, and opposing those detrimental to those communities.
- (3) WSDCC Committees: stressing participation on Rules, and Resolutions/Platform Committees to ensure no adverse impact on ARC constituents, including making sure current voting WSDCC rules are not modified to reduce rural voting strength within WSDCC. Also working to ensure wording and content of proposed WSDCC Planks and resolutions promote, not hurt, agriculture and rural communities.
- (4) Eastern Washington Field Office & Representative. ARC lobbied for and obtained funding for this position of a WSDCC staffer focused solely on Eastern Washington rural and agricultural concerns, with the office located in Moses Lake.



- (5) ARC also works with WSDCC members of the Democrat National Committee (DNC) to provide proactive input at national meetings of DNC, including participation in DNC's Rural Council, as well as WSDCC members of Young Democrats of America (YDA) and their participation in YDA's Rural Council. ARC has also reached out to counterparts in neighboring States of Idaho and Oregon.



Education:

- (1) **Speakers at Quarterly Meetings:** ARC features one or more presenters at its regular quarterly business meetings who speak of topics of interest and concern to ARC membership. (See Attachment B for listing of speakers.)
- (2) **Distribution at ARC meetings and/or via e-mail of literature and information from related agricultural organizations** such as Rural Roots, RuralVotes, SlowFoodUSA, USDA, and IRIS (Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship).
- (3) **All-Day Weekend Forum's:** ARC has hosted and sponsored four such gatherings:
 - (a) Walla Walla, May 2006: Democrat Candidate Forum, Best Western
 - (b) Sequim, March 2007: Saving Farmland and Future of Agriculture in Washington, Pioneer Park Grange Hall
 - (c) Moses Lake, September 2007: Immigration Impact on Washington Agriculture, Grange Hall, Grant County Fairgrounds
 - (d) Okanogan/Omak, July 2009: Survival of Small Agriculture & Logging Enterprises in Time of Recession, Globalization and Corporate Agri-Business, Okanogan Grange Hall
- (4) **Letters to the Editor/Newspaper Articles.** Officers and members of ARC regularly compose letters to the editor which are printed in publications throughout Washington State. ARC officers also prepare articles for publication in State newspapers. (See Attachments C, D and E.)
- (5) **Preparation of educational flyers and brochures focusing on Washington State Democrat position on agriculture and rural issues for use in election campaigns, including promulgation of "Declaration of Support for Washington Farms"** (See Attachments F & G.)
- (6) **Service in Eastside Democrat and WSDCC Statewide Speakers Bureaus.**



Lobbying:

- (1) **Federal/Statewide/Olympia:** Members of ARC have regularly lobbied and continue to lobby State and Federal Legislators and the State Governor, as well as functionaries of State and Federal government agencies through correspondence, phone calls, and personal visits. Jackie Bradley, Dan Lambert, Chris Zaferes, Tom Pasma, Ellie Webb, Mimi

Latta, Marilyn Pollock, Eileen Macoll, Kathy Humphrey, George Fearing and Paul Spencer have been especially active in visiting lawmakers' Olympia offices.

- (2) County/Municipal: Similarly many ARC members promote ARC concerns at the local municipal and county government level, working with mayors and commissioners, and local government offices.



Picture of All Day Saturday September 15, 2007 Moses Lake ARC Conference on Immigration

Listing of Officers

2009-2011

Chair: Jackie Bradley, Okanogan County
ViceChair East: Albert Roberts, Okanogan County
ViceChair West: Di Irons, King County
Treasurer: Carolyn Cress, Whitman County
Secretary: Larry Ludwig, Stevens County

2007-2009

Chair: Chris Zaferes, Okanogan County
ViceChair East: Carolyn Cress, Whitman County
ViceChair West: Tom Pasma, Skagit County
Treasurer: Jackie Bradley, Okanogan County
Secretary: Larry Ludwig, Stevens County

2005-2007

Chris Zaferes, Okanogan County
Carolyn Cress, Whitman County
Bill Harrington, Pierce County
Jackie Bradley, Okanogan County
Larry Ludwig, Stevens County

[Prepared by Larry Ludwig, ARC Secretary, July 2010]

02 - Agriculture

1
2
3 Domestic production of food is critical to national security and essential to our
4 future. We are proud that agriculture - including aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, and
5 other food and fiber production - is a leading industry in Washington State. We
6 recognize the role of farmers as stewards of the land, and we support programs and
7 policies that ensure the availability of high-quality food, strengthen rural
8 communities, preserve family farms and maintain the productivity of the land. This
9 requires legislation that sustains farming when calamities occur and that ensures
10 that farmers and farm workers earn a fair return on their efforts, are safe in doing
11 that work, and produce food that is safe to eat.

We call for:

12
13
14 Incentives to encourage the agricultural skills, careers, and lifestyles that are
15 essential to our country's survival;

16 Policies consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act that
17 preserve agricultural land and natural resources critical to the viability of
18 food, fuel, and forest production into the future;

19 Adoption of sustainable agriculture and aquaculture methods;

20 Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and
21 economic information, including local concerns;

22 Improvement of agriculture through research and extension efforts, focusing
23 on sustainable agriculture and small farms;

24 Reduction of the use of herbicides, pesticides, and other hazardous materials;

25 Improving the inspections of domestic and imported foods and livestock to
26 ensure safe food;

27 Clear food labeling, including date packaged, and full and complete
28 disclosure of nation of origin, genetically modified organism status,
29 irradiation, and organic certification;

30 Encouraging the use of locally grown food;

31 Policies that support and encourage small farms and family farms;

32 The protection of productive farm land and wetlands from other forms of
33 residential, industrial, and other development;

34 Enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;

35 Review of and updates to farm subsidy programs to ensure they benefit
36 family-size farms as intended.

We oppose:

37
38 Use of edible products other than waste for the manufacture of bio-fuels.
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Listing of Speakers at Ag & Rural Caucus (ARC) Meetings, 2005-2010

- 04/01/05: Mr. William Brokerson, Deputy Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- 01/16/05: Ms. Sally Hintz, Director of Senator Cantwell's Northwest Washington Office
Mr. Evan Schatz, Legislative Assistant to Senator Murray
Ms. Kristen LeMieux, Island/Skagit County Liaison District Agriculture Staff of Congressman Larsen's office
- 11/11/05: Ms. Carol Danserereau
- 01/27/06: Mr. John De Vaney, U.S. Department of Agriculture, State Director for Washington State
Mr. Dan Lambert, Marketing Director, Evergreen Renewable Technologies
Mr. Benjamin Lawver, Community Protection
- 05/06/06 Democrat Candidate Forum (Walla Walla):
Peter Goldmark, candidate for 5th CD
Richard Wright, candidate for 4th CD
Hon. Bill Grant, candidate for 6th LD, Position 2
George Fearing, candidate for 6th LD, Position 1
Jack Miller, candidate for 7th LD, Position 1
Nathan Horter, candidate for Auditor, Whitman County
Hon. Jackie Bradley, candidate for Clerk, Okanogan County
- 06/02/06 Mr. Terry Hunt, President, Washington State Grange
- 09/29/06 Mr. George Kirkmire, Executive Assistant, Washington Contract Loggers Association
- 01/27/07 Hon. Valoria Loveland, Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture
- 03/17/07 Hon. Lynn Kessler, D, 24th LD, Majority Leader, State House of Representatives
Hon. Kevin Van de Wege, D, 24th LD, Majority Whip, State House of Representatives
Hon. Steven Therigan, Clallum County Commissioner
Hon. David Bowen, Kittitas County Commissioner
John Miller, Director, Clallum County Department of Community Development

Mr. Jim Aldrich, President, Friends of the Fields Foundation
Mr. Bob Caldwell, Treasurer, Friends of the Fields Foundation
Mr. Ken Sweeney, President, Northwest Olympic Land Trust
Mr. Don Stuart, Northwest States Director, American Farmland Trust
Mr. Don Whiting, State Legislative Director, Washington State Grange
Mr. Bob Boekelheide, Director, Dungeness River Audubon Center
Ms. Kathy Charlton, Owner, Olympic Cellars (Winery)
Mr. Ron Richards, Commercial Fisherman
Mr. Curtis Beus, Washington State University, Director Clallam County
Extension Office
Mr. David Muehleisen, Washington State University, Small Farms Program,
Coordinator for Research and Outreach
Mr. Arno Bergstrom, Washington State University, Director Kitsap County
Extension Office
Mr. Chris Feise, Director, Washington State University Center for Sustaining
Agricultural and Natural Resources
Mr. Mark Ozias, Manager, Sequim Farmer's Market

04/28/07 Hon. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney, D, 46th LD, State House of Representatives

06/30/07 Daniel Bauermeister, Connell, Washington Wheat Farmer
Dana DeSoto, Washington "Clean Elections" Public Campaign
Todd Dickson, Director, TriCities Work Source, WA Employment Security Dept.
Ignacio Marquez, Farmworker Monitor Advocate, WA Employment Security Dept.

09/15/07 George Fearing, Democrat Candidate, 4th Congressional District
Dwain Forester, Dairy Farmer, Director of Mountain Regional Council of Dairy
Farmers of America and Board Member of Washington State Dairy Board
Albert Garza, Administrator, Grant-Adams Counties, WorkSource Central Basin,
Washington State Employment Security Department
Mike Gempler, Executive Director, Washington Growers League
Katie Kirking, Legislative Assistant to Senator Maria Cantwell
Karen Lewis, Washington State University Extension, Ephrata
Ignacio Marquez, Manager, Agricultural Services Program, Washington State
Employment Security Department
Kristine Reeves, President, Spokane Regional Task Force on Human Relations
Carlos Reyes II, Supervisor, Employment Standards Compliance, Region V
Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

09/29/07 Mike Gempler, Executive Director, Washington Growers League
Sameer Ranade, "Simply Better Schools"

01/26/08 Mary Selecky, Secretary, Washington State Department of Health

09/13/08 Mr. George Fearing, 4thCD Democrat Candidate
Ms. Debbie Serait, 28thLD Senate Democrat Candidate
Ms. Chris Endresen, State Director for Senator Maria Cantwell
Ms. Amanda Nelson, Chair, Young Democrats of America's Rural Caucus;
Chair, Washington Young Democrats of America

04/25/09 Ms. Manuelita Ybarra, Women's Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor

07/18/09 Mr. Michael Blake, Mayor, Okanogan City
Ms. Cindy Gayne, Mayor, Omak City
Mr. Andrew Lampe, Commissioner, Okanogan County
Mr. Don Hover, Commissioner, Okanogan County
Ms. Mary Lou Peterson, Chair, Okanogan County Commissioners
Mr. Frank Rogers, Sheriff, Okanogan County
Ms. Judith Olson, Eastern Washington Director, U.S. Senator Murray
Mr. Marcus Riccelli, Eastern Washington Director, U.S. Senator Cantwell
Mr. Jim Potts, Rural County Lobbyist in Olympia; former Whitman County
Commissioner
Ms. Nancy Warner, Executive Coordinator, Initiative for Rural Innovation &
Stewardship (IRIS)
Mr. Wade King, President, Cattle Producers of Washington
Ms. Elizabeth Phares, Sheep Rancher & Owner, Okanogan Harvest Distributors
Mr. Paul Spencer, Biofuels/Biomass Activist, Skamania County
Mr. Jose Ybarra, Retired Washington State Farm Worker Monitor Advocate
Mr. Erik Nicholson, National Vice President, United Farm Workers Union
Ms. Mariah Cornwoman, Owner, CW Ray LLP Farm & Forest Products
Mr. Dave Demyan, Natural Resource Management Consultant
Mr. Steve Mitzner, President, Mitzner Logging
Mr. Ed Thiele, Cattle Rancher; former Okanogan County Commissioner (also Tour of
Omak Stampede Facility & Suicide Horse Race Site)
Mr. John Wyss, Analyst & Government Affairs, Gebbers (Fruit) Farms
Mr. Larry Potts, Manager, Colville Indian Plywood & Veneer (Tour of Biomass/Biofuel
Plant)

09/26/09 Mr. Paul Spencer, Biofuels/biomass Activist, Skamania County
Mr. Jim Stephenson, Big Game Biologist, Yakima Nation

01/30/10 Senator Adam Kline, (D) 37th LD
Representative Larry Springer, (D) 45th LD
Mr. Timothy Ford, Assistant Attorney General, Open Government Ombudsman
Ms. Cheryl Christ, 3rd CD Candidate
Mr. Denny Heck, 3rd CD Candidate
Representative Deb Wallace, 3rd CD Candidate (Democrat 17th LD)

06/25/10 Mr. Mario Villanueva, Washington State Director, Rural Development, U.S.
Department of Agriculture
Mr. Jay Clough, 4th CD Democrat Candidate
Mr. Clyde Cordero, 5th CD Democrat Candidate
Mr. Tom Silva, 15th LD House Democrat Candidate
Mr. Paul Spencer, 15th LD House Democrat Candidate
Mr. Tom Pasma, 40th LD House Democrat Candidate

ARC All Day Saturday Conferences/Forum's

May 2006: Democrat Candidates Forum, Walla Walla, Walla Walla County, Nina Roth

March 2007: Preserving FarmLands & Open Spaces, Sequim, Clallum County, Marliyn Pollock

Sept.2007: Immigration in Agricultural Washington State, Moses Lake, Grant County, Ellie Webb

July 2009: Survival of Small Farms and Logging Companies, Okanogan/Omak, Okanogan County, Jackie Bradley. (Preceded by Friday tour of Colville Indian Plywood & Veneer mill; followed by Sunday tour of Omak Stampede/Suicide Race site.)

Pertinent Quotations

"To pour forth benefits for the common good is divine" Benjamin Franklin

"Our basic function is to develop alternatives to existing policies, to keep them alive and available until the politically impossible becomes the politically inevitable" Professor/Economist Milton Freidman

"The ultimate test of a man's conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations, whose words of thanks will not be heard" US Senator Gaylord Nelson

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Woe to you legislators of infamous laws...who refuse justice to the unfortunate, who cheat the poor among my people of their rights, who make widows their prey and rob the orphan" Isaiah 10:1-2,
Jerusalem Bible

"The moral test of government is how it treats those who are in the dawn of life, the children; those who are in the twilight of life, the aged; and those who are in the shadows of life, the sick, the needy, and the handicapped" Governor/U.S.Senator/Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey

Rural Democrats pass ag resolutions

By Larry Ludwig
Contributor

Four resolutions sponsored by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus (ARC) of the Washington State Democrats were adopted at the state-wide January 30 meeting of the Washington State Democratic Central Committee in Seattle.

The resolutions touched on concerns relating to genetic cloning, electrical equipment used in renewable energy projects, SEPA review of water rights transfers, and humane processing of horses.

The first three resolutions seek enactment of laws by our Olympia legislators to (1) provide State protection of Washington farmers from loss and liability due to the drift of genetically engineered material, (2) to adopt policies approving use by small farmers in projects like solar stock water pumps & temporary irrigation systems, of non-listed DC (direct current) pumps, pump controllers and wind generators that are installed per applicable NCE (National Electrical Code) and Washington State electrical codes, and (3) to include the impact on the losing County (original water-right County-of- origin) as part of EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) and SEPA (State Environmental Policy Act) reviews covering requests for transfer of water

rights, which as is now the case, only consider the impact on the receiving County.

The horse slaughter/processing resolution urges our Washington State Congressional delegation, including Senators Murray and Cantwell, and Representative McMorris-Rogers, to oppose the passage of any law that criminalizes the humane commercial slaughter and processing of horses when there are compelling reasons for such slaughter. At this time there are some 20,000 feral horses, not counting 100's of domestic horses abandoned by their owners, on Northwest Indian Reservations and Bureau of Land Management lands. These numbers greatly exceed the carrying capacity of these lands, negatively impacting other resources including forage and cover for wildlife, native cultural food and medicinal plants, and the degradation of water and fishery resources, which in turn, leads to starvation and other agonizing deaths of horses. Currently, U.S. Senate Bill 727 and U.S. Houses of Representatives Bill 503 call for a three year prison term and a fine for anyone selling or providing transport for horses sold for humane slaughter for commercial use.

ARC's horse slaughter resolution has attracted national attention. The Executive Director of "United Organizations of the

Horse" states "it is tremendous that Washington has joined so many other states in recognizing the need for humane and regulated processing of horses. Before 2007, when the US horse plants were closed, the horse industry was a \$1.2 billion industry that supported 460,000 direct full-time jobs with horses, and another 1.4 million indirect jobs. ...The industry is experiencing a tragic and unnecessary contraction, including lost livelihoods, families driven from homes and lands, and the horrific suffering of horses."

Meanwhile, individual members of ARC are actively working and lobbying in Olympia for passage of SB 6349, the Farm Intern Bill. This bill will allow small farms to easily establish (with less regulations and paperwork, and at lower costs than currently in place) internship programs for future farmers to pass on crucial vocational knowledge of farming practices and enterprises.

The Agriculture and Rural Caucus is organized on a County basis (three members per County), and is led by Chair, Jackie Bradley and Vice Chair-East Albert Roberts of Okanogan County, Vice Chair-West Di Irons of King County, Treasurer Carolyn Cress of Whitman County, and Secretary Larry Ludwig of Stevens County. For more information, contact panludwik@aol.com

Also published in February 18-24, 2010, edition of the "Huckleberry Press"

NATION: Feds ready to lower interest rates, A13

Columbia Basin Herald

Monday
September 17, 2007
50¢

Democrats discuss immigration

*Pinpointing issues
related to
local agriculture*

BY CANDICE BOUTILIER
Herald staff writer

MOSES LAKE — The Grant County Democrats held a forum to discuss immigration issues at the Grant County Fairgrounds Saturday.

Royal City Dairy Farmer Dwain Forester discussed the impact of immigration on agricultural work.

"It's vitally important that we have a work source we can pick from," he said. "The work source is this, it's just like a relay race."

Forester said the cows on a dairy farm operate on a strict schedule. If they are not milked by a certain time, they leak or overproduce milk causing mastitis. He said he needs several dependable workers to run his operation.

"The work source needs to be available as we need it, not as the government provides it," Forester said.

He said it can be difficult for a farmer to determine if a migrant worker is documented due to false documents appearing real.

"I'm not a cop," Forester said.

He said there are several consequences for a farmer who hires an illegal alien. For each illegal alien hired at a job, it is a \$10,000 fine and possible jail time.

"That has been the group that has migrated to our industry," Forester said. "They have the desire (to work)."

Citizen Pete Scobby asked if it is the availability of workers or the cheap labor of migrant workers driving the issue.

"They are not cheap, the work force is not there," Forester said.

He said it is difficult finding enough people to employ. He advertises through employment agencies and gets someone who comes in for an interview asking not to be hired so they can remain on welfare.

George Fearing, 4th Congressional District Campaign Manager Mimi Latta said there is an issue of entitlement related to agricultural work.

There could be a lack of work force because U.S. youth appear to believe agricultural work such as picking fruit is below them, she said.

Forester urged people to tell the legislature a sustainable

See **FORUM**, Page **A14**

Democrat Agricultural and Rural Caucus deflects bill intended to tax WA State farm products & farm auctions

Through a concerted effort by the Washington State Democratic Party's Agricultural and Rural Caucus (ARC), spearheaded by ARC consultant Dan Lambert and member Kathy Humphrey, proposed Senate Bill 5911 (offered by three West Coast urban Senators) was all but dead in the State Senate Ways and Means Committee, thanks in no small part to the opposition mounted by agricultural advocates within the Democratic Party. The Bill proposes to impose the "Business and Occupation" tax on Washington farms and the State sales tax on farm auction proceeds.

"The last thing anyone needs in this economy is new taxes, and that especially applies to farmers, many of whom are struggling just to break even as it is," stated Humphrey, wife of a Douglas County wheat farmer, Democratic State Committeewoman, and agricultural activist. "Usually farms only have auctions when they go under. Slapping a sales tax on a farm bankruptcy auction would be the ultimate government insult, especially since sales taxes have already been paid on every item to be sold at that auction. How many times does the state need to collect sales tax?"

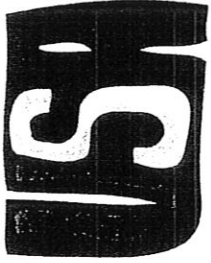
"Maintaining our family farms is important to local economies, the economy of the State of Washington, as well as to the well being of the

people of Washington," said Larry Ludwig, ARC Secretary.

Noted Humphrey, "Democrats want to support all our farmers in their endeavors and oppose unfair, harmful taxation which singles farmers out to their disadvantage and their consumers' detriment. While we believe the Bill is all but dead, we are still keeping a wary eye on the legislature just to make sure it doesn't pop up as an amendment to a similar bill."

Lambert stated, "For too long the public has seen American agriculture as the domain of the wealthy. The public reads of all kinds of abuses and does not understand the investment needed to make a living by farming. Some legislators in Olympia may see this as an opportunity to take advantage of those who work the land. Their instigating the Business and Occupation tax is a result of this paradigm. My family has been farming in Eastern Washington since the early 1880's and we have much to be grateful for thanks to generations of hard work. The farmers I know do not deserve another source of adversity and certainly not more taxes. They do not want charity from any source, only to work hard, raise their families, and see parity for the crops they produce. ARC will continue to make progress to strengthen our rural economies in Washington."

Disclaimer: The opinions stated in this article are those of individual members of the Agriculture and Rural Caucus and may or may not represent the opinions of the Washington State Democratic Party



Barack Obama on Rural America

"We are at that critical and urgent moment. If Washington continues policies that work against America's family farmers, our rural communities will fall further behind and so will America" Barack Obama, speech in Fairfax, IA, Oct-16-2007

"Cultivators of the earth are the most valuable citizens," Thomas Jefferson. Sen. Obama believes that family farmers are still the cornerstone of America's democracy.

Barack believes that once again our country must turn to its agricultural roots to rebuild an economy based on renewable energy that is environmentally safe. Barack will prioritize policies to improve the quality of life in rural America while ensuring economic opportunity and financial commitment to rural economic development.

"This will transform the economy, especially in rural America, which is poised to produce and refine more American Biofuels and More wind power than ever before, and create millions of new jobs across the county".

<http://www.barackobama.com/issues/rural/>

Ensure Economic Opportunity for Family Farmers:

Barack Obama will fight for farm programs that provide family farmers with the financial stability and predictability they need. Other plans:

- Protection from market disruptions and weather disasters
- Target programs to support family farmers not super wealthy farmers.
- Close loop holes allowing mega farms to take advantage of government farm subsidies. Obama will immediately qualify active small farmers who work the land including landlords who rent to active farmers for subsidies.

Ensure Competitive Fairness:

**Barack will fight to ensure fair access to markets, farmer control over production decisions and encourage price transparency.

**Regulate Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) which raise more than 40% of our livestock. In an Obama administration the EPA will strictly monitor and regulate pollution from large CAFO's.

**Limit EQIP Funding for CAFO's: The Environmental Quality Incentives program provides financial support to farmers seeking to improve environmental conditions of their operations. In 2002 the Farm Bill made EQIP payments of up to \$450,000 available to large livestock operations. Obama will limit the size of eligible operations so that the largest polluters must pay for their own cleanups while the small and mid-sized farms receive the help intended.

- Establish Country of Origin Labeling
- Encourage Organic and Sustainable Agriculture
- Create Permanent Disaster Assistance Fund
- Maintain our Export Competitiveness
- Provide incentive programs to help farmers prevent runoff pollution from soil erosion, pesticides and fertilizers.

Farmers, ranchers, and private landowners are the principle stewards of rural land and water. As president, Obama will put an unprecedented level of emphasis on the conservation of private lands. Obama will increase incentives for farmers and private landowners to conduct sustainable agriculture and protect wetlands, grasslands, and forests.

Support of Rural Economic Development:

Barack Obama recognizes that local and regional food systems are better for our environment and hence supports family-scale producers. As President he will emphasize the need for Americans to BUY FRESH and BUY LOCAL and will implement USDA policies that promote local and regional food systems.

To encourage new small business and value added agriculture Obama will:

- Provide capital, thru grant programs, for farmers to create value added enterprises. Such as farmer-owned Processing facilities.
- Establish a Small Business Micro-enterprise Initiative for training and technical assistance for small rural business.
- Support payment in Lieu of Taxes for large tracts of land owned by the federal government (to make up for property taxes they cannot collect on federal land)
- Connect Rural America: reform the telephone Universal Service Program to support affordable broadband communication.

Promote Rural America's Leadership in Renewable Energy:

Barack has been one of the strongest proponents of increasing the national supply of homegrown American renewable fuels. As President he will ensure that our rural areas continue leadership in this quest.

- Invest in the fastest, cheapest ways to energy independence. Cost effective energy efficiency will take priority over construction of new generation facilities. President Obama will set a bold national goal of reducing energy intensity of our economy by 50% by 2030.

- Build Biofuels Distribution Infrastructure. Improve the production, supply and distribution of advanced Biofuels like cellulosic ethanol and biodiesel.
- Fund to development of the next generation of Biofuels. Ensure that advanced Biofuels, including cellulosic ethanol are developed and incorporated into our national fuel supply as soon as possible. Develop Biofuels mindful of the need for water and land conservation.

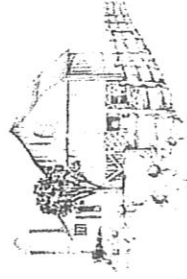
- Expand locally owned Biofuel Refineries. Promote incentives for communities to invest in their Biofuel refineries including federal tax credit programs and provide technical assistance. Increase renewable Fuel Standards & establish low carbon standards.

- President Obama will increase Fuel Economy Standards and mandate all new vehicles to Flex-Fuel by the end of his first term in office.

Other issues:

- Include rural America in infrastructure building, i.e. bridges, roads, rails and basic services.
- Promote incentives for doctors, nurses and health care professionals to work in underserved rural areas.
- Barack Obama will strengthen the rural Veterans healthcare programs by expanding the number of Vet Centers. Give the Vet Centers the tools to contract with other providers in remote areas.

- As President, he will continue the fight to rid our communities of meth by: Cracking down on importation of meth chemicals, help mothers beat meth addiction (recent lawenforment study reviled an increase of meth use among rural women), clean up meth labs



Visit the Stevens County Democrats:
www.stevenscountymocrats.org

Paid for by Stevens County Democrats
Prepared by Grant County Democrats

A DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR WASHINGTON FARMS

One of the most important parts of Eastern Washington's way of life is our rural and agricultural heritage. From sites like the summit of Steptoe Butte, the patchwork quilt of carefully tended fields extends as far as the eye can see in every direction. But the golden shimmer of grain swaying to a summer breeze hides a desperate cry for help. A cry we Democrats, the traditional champions of our rural way of life, must respond to.

The basic fabric of our rural way of life in Eastern Washington and across the nation is in mortal peril. We are on the verge of a farming disaster that will make the dust bowl of the 30's look like a tempest in a teapot. 3 out of 5 of our farming families and neighbors are in dire financial straits. Some face bankruptcy. This is not for lack of sweat, tears and hard work, but for lack of the basic federal attention that most other industries and markets have received in abundance. Just as the Democrats did under Roosevelt, and again in the 70's, we must focus the attention, and innovative can-do spirit of our great country on the problems of those who need our help so desperately - our friends and neighbors in Eastern Washington's rural agricultural areas.

1) Our farmers need PARITY NOT CHARITY. The people who produce our agricultural goods are not in charge of their market. Third party wholesalers far down the line determine the market. This leads to an inelastic market that does not respond to typical forces of supply and demand.

2) Our farmers need a concentrated and dedicated state and federal effort towards developing new markets for farm goods domestically and internationally. This includes bio-energy and new crops.

3) Rural economies need access to federal economic development employment assistance to help capitalize on the enormous potential currently being wasted in the many willing and able hands idled by our farming crisis.

4) The federal government should immediately help address the problems of rural access to affordable healthcare for agricultural and municipal service employees. Farming is one of the most hazardous occupations on the planet, yet we make our farm workers and families drive hundreds of miles for even basic care.

5) We need to encourage direct investment in improving the existing quality of life for our farm communities, which are suffering from badly deteriorated infrastructure and bills for maintenance and upkeep that they simply can't meet.

These issues can't wait for a Republican administration consumed by corruption. They require attention and work from a representative in congress who knows farming, and who knows what it means to live and work in a rural community. They require the dedication of someone willing to take on and confront the Republican leadership and demand PARITY NOT CHARITY for our hard working Eastern Washington farm families. We, the Democratic Party in Eastern Washington, pledge to provide that leadership and that vision.

Together we can do better. As Democrats, working together with our state and local leaders, we will ensure our farms and rural communities once again become the places we are proud to claim as such an important part of our National Heritage.