Walla Walla County Conservation District
325 North 13th Avenue, Walla Walla, WA 99362-9526
Phone (509) 522-6340, Ext. 5

2018 Annual Meeting and Election

Thursday, January 18th, 2018
Walla Walla Regional Airport Community Room

7:45-8:00 Sign in: Coffee & Rolls

8:00-8:10 Welcome & Election opened: Ed Chvatal, District Board Chairman

8:10-8:30 WWCCD Activities Report: Renee Hadley, WWCCD Manager

8:30-8:40 NRCS report: Ed Teel, DC

8:40-8:50 FSA report: Kelley Betts, CED

8:50-9:50 Dean "Sustainability in an Era of Conservation, Social Pressure and Regulations"
Dr. Dean will discuss mechanisms for working with organic and conventional farms to reduce inputs such as fertilizer and pesticide use while maintaining or improving the quality of crops. He will include a discussion of the proper use of pesticide alternatives to maintain the use of effective chemicals through resistance management. He will also reference the appropriate use of water to maintain crop growth and protect ground and surface water resources.

9:50—10:00 Break

10:00-11:00 Sowers "Canola: An Opportunity Crop in Walla Walla County"
Mrs. Sowers will walk us through how canola fits into cereal grain and other crop rotations in Walla Walla County, management considerations, and pest management. Using canola as a possible rotation crop helps farmers deal with residual herbicides commonly used in cereal rotations, controls problem weeds, improves water infiltration, and breaks up disease cycles. She will discuss pests (both insects and weeds) associated with canola and different methods to combat those pests, along with other production and marketing information.

11:05-12:00 Wysocki "Nature and the Status of Soil pH & Nutrient Stratification"
Dr. Wysocki will discuss his observations and research of soils in the Walla Walla area. Small changes in pH can have dramatic effects on cation toxicity, crops, and nutrient availability. Soil pH can impact the effectiveness of integrated pest management practices. The stratification of soils and soil pH have direct impacts on crop fitness and yield.

12:00-12:15 Long Range Planning discussion

12:15-1:00 Hosted lunch

1:00 Election closed

ABOUT OUR PRESENTORS

Bill Dean, River Point Farms Consulting Agronomist
Bill Dean is a consulting agronomist who received his B.S., M.S., and PhD in Horticulture at Washington State University. He was a professor at Michigan State University and WSU, a Director of Agronomy at UI Group, a horticulturist for the Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center at WSU-Prosser, a general manager for several farms, and Vice President of Quality Assurance & Sustainability. His research was conducted on crop nutrition, disease, insect and weed control, soil amendments, and water quality and food safety issues. Additional areas of research included potato seed sources, planter performance, seed sizing and cutting, harvest damage control, fertility and pesticide application, and corn and potato cultivar trials.

Karen Sowers, WSU Dept. of Crop & Soil Sciences Extension Specialist.
As a native of Kansas, Karen has a wealth of field and academic knowledge about canola. She received her B.S. from Kansas State University and M.S. from WSU. Karen is the Extension lead of the Washington Oilseed Cropping Systems project at WSU since it began in 2007. Some of her responsibilities include organizing large-scale canola variety trials, field days, oilseed workshops, and individual farm visits, along with being a WSU liaison to the U.S. Canola Association and coordinating the formation of a PNW Canola Association. Sowers provided 2017 canola acreage estimates and production potential for the Pacific Northwest to the U.S. Canola Association.

Don Wysocki, OSU Extension Soil Scientist
Don Wysocki is Extension Soil Scientist with the OSU Crop and Soil Science Department at Pendleton, Oregon. He received his B.S. in natural resources science from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, M.S. in soil science from Washington State University, and PhD in soil science from Iowa State University. He conducts extension work and applied research on dryland cropping systems in eastern Oregon. His cropping system work focuses on nutrient and residue management of cereal crops, oil seed crops and direct seed farming practices.