



Alan Kenaga/Capital Press

Free parking available for the Expo

Visitors to this year's Spokane Ag Expo can again take advantage of the free parking available at the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena's Main Lot.

By parking at the arena and riding the shuttle bus, visitors can avoid the expense of finding parking at the Convention Center.

Parking Lot Hours:

- Tuesday, Feb. 7: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, Feb. 8: 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
- Thursday, Feb. 9, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Excellence awards add category to honor lifetime achievements

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

The Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum are expanding their annual awards to honor excellence in agriculture.

In addition to adult and youth categories, this year the Excellence in Agriculture Award will include a legacy category.

For some previous nominations, the Expo board felt the people or businesses should be recognized for their impact and contributions over a longer period of time, said Dick Hatterman, chairman of the award committee.

"It's for somebody who has contributed over a lifetime, 20 years, 30 years, to the ag industry," Hatterman said.

"The importance of the

award is to recognize people and organizations that have contributed to the success of the industry," Hatterman said. "The industry has its ups and downs, but it's the people and organizations that continually put out effort who make sure it keeps moving forward."

This year's winners will be announced at the opening session of the Pacific Northwest Farm Forum, which will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Feb. 7 in the Convention Center's Lower Level Ballroom. This is the fourth year the awards are being presented.

Hatterman said the committee is always pleased and excited to see which nominations come in.

Last year, the Expo honored Shepherd's Grain, a farmer-run business, and the LaCrosse, Wash., FFA mar-

keting team, comprised of students Jason Wigen, Abigail McGregor and Britte Harder. Wigen is now a student at Washington State University majoring in crop science. McGregor and Harder will graduate this year.

"It was just a wonderful experience, having your peers acknowledge that you've accomplished something, in their view," said Shepherd's Grain co-founder Fred Fleming, who accepted the award. "For me, it really was a humbling experience to have that sort of recognition. It's one of those things that someone said, 'Thank you.' It was a real gift."

The students' marketing plan for Dixon Land and Livestock in Pomeroy, Wash., won first place at the FFA national convention in 2015.

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