



Courtesy of Amy Patrick

Jim Heater, one of the founders of the Northwest Agricultural Show, helps move a Caterpillar tractor at the show.

Northwest Ag Show grows in the rain

By MITCH LIES
For the Capital Press

Each year, come the last week in January, organizers of the Northwest Agricultural Show hope for rain.

“If it is good weather out, you know where farmers are going to be,” said show manager Amy Patrick. “They’re going to be working on their farms and not at the show.”

Whether it is the date, the rain or something else, something seems to be working for the organizers of the Northwest Agricultural Show. Now in its 46th year, the show is the second largest agricultural show on the West Coast, behind only the World Ag Expo in Tulare, California.

Around 10,000 people attended the show last year, a 15 percent increase over the previous year.

The Northwest Agricultural Show was started by

Patrick’s father, Jim Heater, and Lloyd Martin in 1969. The two attended the Tulare farm show, which was also just starting at that time, and took home some ideas of what they wanted their show to look like.

Initially held at the Oregon State Fairgrounds, the show in the first two years consisted of an exposition of farm machinery and supplies and a handful of seminars. When it was 2 years old, the Oregon Horticultural Council was formed, and the show expanded its schedule of seminars, a formula it maintains today.

The Horticultural Council is made up of the Oregon Nut Growers Society, the Oregon Association of Nurseries and the Oregon Horticultural Society.

“What folks were finding with the different groups is that everybody was trying

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