

Award honors agriculture's supporters

Winners announced during Expo kickoff

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

The Greater Spokane Incorporated AgriBusiness Council will present its Excellence in Agriculture Award during the Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum.

The award debuted last year, when the council honored the McGregor Company for its rehabilitation of a biodiesel facility in Creston, Wash., and students from Odessa High School for a career forum, which placed first in the nation at the Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference.

The winners of the 2015 award will be announced and presented at the Pacific Northwest Farm Forum kickoff session the morning of Feb. 3.

According to a council

press release, the selection committee considers four criteria:

- Innovation in agriculture.
- Economic or environmental stewardship contribution to agriculture.
- Positive impact on agriculture.
- Industry awareness and outreach.

Dick Hatterman, general manager of Co-Ag Inc., in Rosalia, Wash., is chairman of the selection committee.

"It's something we kinda talked about a couple years ago, saying, 'How do we support agriculture?'" Hatterman said. "There's always that one, two or five people who have really made a difference in the last year. Either they brought up ideas, spent time getting stuff going — they've done what's needed

to help agriculture."

The nomination process is easy, Hatterman says. All someone has to do is provide contact information for nominees, and the Ag Expo committee contacts them. The nominee fills out a form, and the committee makes a selection.

"The criteria is somebody who has really helped Eastern Washington agriculture," Hatterman said. "That could be an implement dealer who has done something in terms of equipment, somebody who has been active politically or maybe it's somebody who has developed something in regards to production. There certainly is a list of viable candidates out there who have helped to promote area agriculture."

Nominees could also be an organization, group of people or youth.



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Co-Ag Inc., general manager Dick Hatterman talks about the importance of the Excellence in Agriculture award in his office in Rosalia, Wash.

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