

# Washington

## WSU wine science center takes shape

By DAN WHEAT  
Capital Press

RICHLAND, Wash. — With its large, glass atrium built to resemble half of a wine barrel, Washington State University's new Wine Science Center in Richland is eye-catching.

The bulk of more than a year of construction on the \$23 million center was completed in January with only some ventilation and a classroom work remaining, said Thomas Henick-Kling, WSU director of viticulture and enology, during a quick tour for Capital Press on Feb. 10.

The main focus now is installation of equipment in a large fermentation room.



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Thomas Henick-Kling, Washington State University director of viticulture and enology, is shown with WSU's new Wine Science Center in Richland, Wash., which he will head. A grand opening is set for June.

A grand opening is being planned for June 4 and classes will be held in the 40,000-square-foot facility

this fall, Henick-Kling said.

Geared for research and education, the center is intended to further Washing-

ton's regional and global wine industry prominence and add to wine grape research being done in Pullman and Prosser. It will be one of the most technologically advanced wine research centers in the world and will train winemakers and viticulturists through their bachelor's and master's degrees in addition to the doctorate level, industry officials have said.

There will be 192, 60-gallon fermentation tanks, Henick-Kling said, noting that many are needed for research.

"For almost every experiment you do in a vineyard, you have to make wine and see what impact it has on

quality," he said.

The building tells a story, he said, with grape crush at one end, going next to fermentation, then finishing and tasting in a wine library that's a red-walled room off the atrium where the state wine commission and others will meet.

Classrooms, he noted, have been designed with enough room for lab carts to move in and out.

Meanwhile, the industry is nearing the end of the first year of operations of the new Walter Clore Wine and Culinary Center near Prosser. The \$4 million center had its grand opening last May 30. It promotes Washington wines, food and agriculture

to the public and has logged more than 3,000 visitors so far, said Abbey Cameron, executive director.

The center features wines from one of Washington's 13 American Viticultural Areas — AVAs — each month and a staff favorite pick of red wines, Cameron said.

"We've been doing a lot of fun educational events. We do a blind tasting of a different varietal the first Thursday of every month," she said, "and we very recently launched the Walter Clore wine club where people can sign up for two bottles, five to six times a year."

The center will expand its exhibits and add an aroma bar this year, she said.

## Ecology to provide water quality guidelines to farmers

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

The state Department of Ecology is telling Eastern Washington landowners what staff members look for when assessing water quality on farms and ranches.

The department is developing a guidance document for landowners, said Brook Beeler, communication manager for Ecology's eastern regional office in Spokane.

"The guidance describes how field staff evaluate streamside vegetation and document site conditions we know contribute to water pollution," Beeler said. "Staff look for and record these visual indicators of water pollution."

The department will finalize the guidance with feedback from the agriculture and water quality advisory committee. The department will present the guidance to the committee Feb. 19 at Ecology headquarters in Lacey, Wash.

The guidance will be available to landowners and producers on Ecology's website, Beeler said.

A department watershed field evaluation data sheet indicates Ecology staff will look for:

- Bare ground.
- Active or potential contaminated runoff.
- Slumping streambanks and erosion.
- Overgrazing of grasses.
- Absence of woody riparian vegetation.
- Manure accumulations.
- Livestock access to surface water.
- Livestock paths and trails in riparian areas.

Beeler said Ecology staff use the field data sheet to collect field notes and as a checklist to capture information in a consistent and objective manner. Staff can prioritize sites and follow up with landowners

to offer options and funding to help fix water pollution problems, she said.

The checklist is not a self-assessment tool for growers, but for staff to record field notes, she said. The data sheet may change slightly to make sure it uses the same language as the landowner guidance, she said.

Ecology staff will be in the field this spring, Beeler said. In January, the department posted its focus areas in Eastern Washington: Blue Mountain streams, Hangman Creek, the north and south forks of the Palouse River, Snake River tributaries in Whitman County and the Walla Walla River.

Toni Meacham, executive director of the Washington Agriculture Legal Foundation and a member of the advisory committee, said having the field data sheet allows landowners the opportunity to know exactly what Ecology staff is looking for.

"This document clearly indicates the triggers that DOE is looking for when they send out noncompliance letters to landowners," Meacham said. "For the first time landowners actually know what DOE is looking for."

Meacham advises landowners use the field data sheet, the guidance document provided by the advisory committee and a risk assessment tool provided by Washington State University Extension rangeland and livestock specialist Tip Hudson to do a self-assessment and develop a management plan.

"Landowners need to be aware that water quality enforcement is continual and make management decisions accordingly," Meacham said. "I would be more concerned if we didn't have this document and were still in the dark as to when DOE is coming out to assess and what they are looking for."

## Ag groups ask lawmakers to head off Inslee-ordered carbon cut

### Washington Department of Ecology working on fuel policy

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

OLYMPIA, Wash. — A cattlemen's group and food processors' association Monday backed a bill to block Gov. Jay Inslee from ordering transportation fuel companies to reduce their carbon output.

House Bill 1881 would prohibit Inslee from setting a low carbon fuel standard by executive order, a power the governor's office says he has under the state's Clean Air Act.

A low carbon fuel standard would require the petroleum industry to reduce the "carbon intensity" of transportation fuels. Carbon intensity purports to measure greenhouse gases released in producing, transporting and consuming a particular type of fuel. The low-carbon standard is part of the governor's climate change agenda.

The Washington Department of Ecology is working on a proposal to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels by 10 percent over 10 years.

Supporters of HB 1881 told the House Environment Committee that such a policy would drive up fuel and food costs.

They urged legislators, even those who support a low carbon fuel standard, not to leave the policy up to the executive branch.

"A low carbon fuel standard will dramatically impact everyone in the state, certainly those of us in agriculture who use the fuel," Washington Cat-



Don Jenkins/Capital Press

Washington Cattlemen's Association Executive Vice President Jack Field, shown here in a Feb. 5 file photo signing in to testify on legislation, told the House Environment Committee on Feb. 16 that a low carbon fuel standard would affect agricultural producers and shouldn't be imposed by a governor's executive order.

tlemen's Association Executive Vice President Jack Field said.

A study commissioned last year by the state Office of Financial Management estimated a low carbon fuel standard

would add 2 cents a gallon to gasoline and diesel prices by 2020. The policy would add 10 cents per gallon to gasoline and 12 cents per gallon to diesel by 2026, according to the study.

Other studies cited by the fuel industry estimate gas and diesel prices would rise by around \$1 a gallon.

Environmental groups urged House members to let the Ecology Department continue working on the policy.

Representatives from the petroleum industry said a low carbon fuel standard would be costly and complicated.

The bill was introduced by Rep. Shelly Short, R-Addy. She said imposing such a policy without lawmakers' involvement would be inappropriate.

The OFM-commissioned study concluded that ethanol manufactured from Midwest corn has a higher carbon intensity than ethanol made from Brazilian sugarcane. The Midwest ethanol industry disputed the finding and asked Inslee to back off from imposing a low carbon fuel standard.

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