

# Excellence award honors ag's finest

## Council considers innovation, positive impacts

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**  
Capital Press

The AgriBusiness Council of Greater Spokane Incorporated will again honor leaders in the region's agriculture.

The council will award its annual Excellence in Agriculture Award during the Spokane Ag Expo.

"It makes us all reflect on the industry and the people involved," said Jay Allert, council chairman. "When you consider nominees for the award, it makes you think about: Where have we been, where are we going and who's having a role in that? It's very healthy to consider that."

Recognition of the individuals and organizations can

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Jay Allert, chairman of Agri-Business Council of Greater Spokane Incorporated

help the industry build on those efforts, he said.

"Good ideas bring good ideas," Allert said.

Allert is enthused by the growing momentum of the award, now in its third year.

"For the AgriBusiness Council to be a part of that, it's just exciting," he said.

The council seeks nominations each year for the award.

The selection committee considers four criteria: innovation, economic and envi-

ronmental stewardship, positive impact on agriculture and industry awareness and outreach.

"We've got more nominees this year than ever before," Allert said.

What do people who are nominated mean for the future of agriculture?

"They mean the future of ag, as far as I'm concerned," Allert said. "It ensures we're continuing to advance the industry, to keep it healthy, to improve it. That's exactly what this award is about."

Previous recipients include the McGregor Co., state Sen. Mark Schoesler, the Odessa, Wash., High School Future Business Leaders of America group and the Liberty FFA ag issues team from Spangle, Wash.



Courtesy of Spokane Ag Expo

Each year the Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum honor individuals and groups who advance the cause of agriculture. From left are Gail Gering, the sister of recipient Sen. Mark Schoesler who accepted the award for him, and the Liberty FFA ag issues team.

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