

Panel tackles falling number problems

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

A panel of experts at this year's Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum will discuss the impacts falling number tests have had on wheat growers' wallets.

More than 40 percent of soft white wheat samples tested by the state's grain inspectors had low falling number in 2016.

"You'd be hard-pressed to find somebody that didn't have

an issue with it," said Mary Palmer Sullivan, vice president of the Washington Grain Commission. "Everybody's talking about it and there's a lot of people that are very upset, because it's hitting them financially in a way that's hard to understand."

The panel includes commission representatives Ty Jessup and Damon Filan, Washington State University winter wheat breeder Arron Carter and Don Potts, Eastern Washington regional manager of the state

grain inspection program.

The Falling Numbers Panel will be at 9 a.m. Thursday in Convention Center Seminar Rooms 402 B&C.

A falling numbers machine may also be on site for farmers to see how the test is done.

The panel will cover customer requirements for falling number tests and the reasons they have them, Sullivan said. Carter will talk about the agronomics involved in falling number.

"The last few years, we thought we were on track to have a pretty clear indicator of what varieties were susceptible, and this year, everything got flip-flopped, so we're now back to square one," Sullivan said.

Sullivan said the commission and state Department of Agriculture are talking to the USDA Agricultural Research Service and USDA Federal Grain Inspection Service about developing a rapid, simple test for grain elevators and growers

to determine falling number and improve grain handling, particularly during harvest.

They're also discussing improvements to the current test equipment and procedure to increase the accuracy and reliability.

About the falling number test

Grain elevators use the Hagberg-Perten falling number test to measure starch dam-

age due to sprouting in wheat.

A low falling number indicates a high level of alpha amylase, an enzyme that degrades starch and diminishes the quality of wheat products.

Rain and temperature fluctuations are the primary causes.

Discounts for falling number vary depending on the elevator. Some companies dock a penny per point below 300, so a result of 280 would cause a 20-cent per bushel discount.

Kids will create ag-themed entries for new contest

By **MATTHEW WEAVER**
Capital Press

The Spokane Ag Expo will host a new event this year for kids ages 12 and under.

The "Kids Creative Corner" contest is for young-

sters who "just like to create things," according to Expo organizers.

Kids were invited to create an entry that is farm-, ranch- or agriculture-related.

Ideas include creations made from — but not limited to — Legos, a diorama,

drawing or painting, recycled art or clay.

Expo Director Myrna O'Leary said an Expo attendee suggested the contest after last year's event.

"(She) said, 'I have an idea for something at your show,'" O'Leary said. "I thought it was a great idea, the board thought it was a great idea, so we're trying it."

Entries were must be a size that can be hand-carried. They are to be dropped off 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 6 at the Spokane Convention Center at the corner of Spokane Falls Boulevard and Division Street, and must be

picked up between noon and 2:30 p.m. on Feb. 9.

Entries will be displayed during the Expo.

All entrants receive a free ticket to the Expo, plus two more tickets for family or friends.

Prizes include "Best of Show," "Most Creative" and "Show Director's Choice." Each winner in the three categories will receive \$25 and a ribbon.

Winners will be announced on the first day of the Expo at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 7.

O'Leary hopes the contest becomes an annual event.

"(It) gets the younger ones involved," O'Leary said.

SCHULTE GO NUMBER ONE!
GO SCHULTE!

VISIT US AT SPOKANE AG EXPO!



5026 ROTARY CUTTER

26' cutting width virtually does the job of two 15' cutters without the extra operating costs. Round skid pans.



**FX 530
30' MOWER**

Excellent shredding and distribution capabilities on Fixed Knife units 30", 32", 36" 38" row spacings.



**FX742
42' MOWER**

Replace 2-3 cutters while reducing the numbers of tractors & fuel.



**RS320
ROCK PICKER**

Large 3.2 cu yard hopper / T-iron tapered grate / Picks 2" to 28" rocks / Large flotation tires.



FX 1800 180" MOWER

Continuously welded deck makes the cutter extremely easy to clean. Weighs less than double decks.



**SRW1400
WINDROWER**

Windrows 2" to 25" rocks Fully enclosed final drive chain. Patented floating drum.

Walter Implement Inc.

Odessa, Washington

509-982-2644

Toll Free: 1-800-572-5939

SPA17-1/#14

ROTATE CROPS FOR PROFIT

CANOLA

Roundup Ready :: Clearfield :: Conventional

SUNFLOWERS :: SAFFLOWER

CAMELINA :: TRITICALE



Increase your wheat yields, break disease cycles and reduce weeds with spring and winter crop rotations

Enjoy domestic marketing opportunities and try out alternate crops.

Spectrum Crop Development :: Ritzville, WA

Curtis 509-659-1757
Todd 509-641-0436

SPA17-1/#14

2017 Pacific Northwest Farm Forum Bronze Sponsors

AGPRO Marketing & Manufacturing Inc.
AgVentures NW LLC
Bank of America Merrill Lynch
Banner Bank
Columbia Grain Inc.
CO-Energy, A Connell Oil Incorporated Company
Global Harvest Foods LTD
Great Western Malting Company
Inland Power & Light
INB
L7 Trading LLC
Pomeroy Grain Growers Inc.

Port of Whitman County
Rain and Hail LLC, Northwest Division
State Bank Northwest
Syngenta
The Haskins Company
The McGregor Company
Tri-State Seed Company
Washington Wheat Foundation
West Coast Seed Mill Supply Company
Whitgro Inc.
Wilbur-Ellis Company
Winston & Cashatt, Lawyers