

## Moses Lake farm first in Washington to plant hemp

Harvest expected in late September

By DON JENKINS  
Capital Press

MOSES LAKE, Wash. — A Grant County farmer has planted 75 irrigated acres of hemp, becoming the first Washington grower to try a crop that remains a federally controlled substance, but can be cultivated under state supervision.

Shane Palmer, whose family farms about 3,000 acres near Moses Lake, put in 70 acres June 2. On June 6, he dropped seeds into the other 5 acres in front of about two dozen people, including prospective hemp farmers.

"I like to get my feet wet with new things," Palmer said. "It's something to play with."

The planting was another step in returning hemp to U.S. agriculture. The 2014 Farm Bill allowed states to legalize hemp cultivation as long as farmers were licensed and supervised by state agriculture departments.

State Senate Agriculture Committee Chairwoman Judy Warnick, R-Moses Lake, watched the later planting, which was in her district.

She said that she had once been skeptical of hemp because of its connection with marijuana — both are cannabis plants, and federal law does not distinguish between hemp and marijuana.

"The more I hear about it, the less skeptical I am about it," she said. "I'm optimistic this can be another crop for our farmers here. We have the best ground in the state, I believe."

Hemp fields must be at least 4 miles from marijuana farms to guard against cross-pollination and must be periodically tested by the state Department of Agriculture to make sure the plants stay low in THC.

So far, WSDA has issued licenses to grow hemp to Palmer and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Palmer's business associate, Cory Sharp of Hemp-Logic, has received a license to distribute seed.

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Potlatch Joe



Genesee Joe

# MEET JOE ANDERSON

— BOTH OF THEM! —

By MATTHEW WEAVER  
Capital Press

Go to any Pacific Northwest wheat industry meeting and you're likely to hear people talking about Joe Anderson.

But which Joe Anderson do they mean? Two Joe Andersons live in Idaho, where they grow wheat near each other, and they are both active in industry organizations.

One Joe — Paul "Joe" Anderson — farms near Potlatch, Idaho. He was named after his grandfather, Paul Jonathan Anderson Sr. and father, Paul Jonathan Anderson Jr.

"My parents decided to call me 'Joe' to avoid confusion," he said. "That effort was only partially successful."

**Farmers share a name — and a wealth of knowledge about region's wheat industry**

The other Joe — Joseph Anderson — farms near Genesee, Idaho, 40 miles from the other Joe Anderson.

To keep the two straight, they're known in industry circles as "Pot-

latch Joe" and "Genesee Joe."

Potlatch Joe, 74, farms 3,400 acres with his son Cody.

Genesee Joe, 59, farms 4,400 acres near Genesee and Lewiston in partnership with his brother.

Potlatch Joe will mark his 50th year of farming this fall.

Genesee Joe has farmed 34 years.

Both are University of Idaho graduates, and both are fourth-generation dryland farmers.

"We've got so damn many things in common, it's uncanny, isn't it?" Potlatch Joe told Genesee Joe with a chuckle as the two sat outside a coffee shop on an April morning in Moscow, Idaho.

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## 'Carbon tariffs' on farm goods unlikely, experts say

Legal and practical considerations complicate carbon tariffs

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI  
Capital Press

Despite the controversy over the U.S. withdrawing from the Paris accord on climate change, experts say U.S. farmers don't face an imminent threat from "carbon tariffs."

The tariffs could potentially be imposed on U.S. goods by countries with stricter controls over carbon emissions, but the action would be fraught with complications, experts say.

"It's one thing to say and

another to enact it," said Mary Boote, CEO of the Global Farmer Network, a nonprofit that advocates free trade and technology in agriculture.

Calculating the amount of money in "carbon tariffs" to impose on particular products would be difficult, particularly since U.S. farmers are taking carbon-saving measures regardless of the international agreement, Boote said.

For example, growers are adopting "no-till" practices that reduce fuel usage — thus

reducing carbon emissions — and planting cover crops that absorb carbon, she said.

"There are other reasons to have made those decisions," Boote said.

Any country seeking to impose a "carbon tariff" would also have to overcome legal hurdles related to the World Trade Organization, said Steve Suppan, senior policy analyst with the Institute for Agriculture & Trade Policy.

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Capital Press File

The U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate accord may complicate future trade negotiations, but "carbon tariffs" are unlikely, experts say.

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