

OUR SAY

Protecting environment helps agriculture

By T.J. BURNHAM

AMY Snover believes most credible scientists are now "on board" that the climate is affected by harmful human impacts.

That some will always take exception to whether mankind is actually

changing the climate, matters not.

What Snover, a research scientist from the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, believes is that we can do better when it comes to farming techniques that impact temperature.

What's really important is that cli-

mate-friendly farming is vital not only to the weather, but also to the economics and viability of agriculture.

When you save the soil, you save carbon, and you save the future for following generations to farm healthy, productive soil. Regardless of your feelings about agriculture's impact on the

thermometer, better farming means economic sustainability.

WSU's Climate Friendly Farming programs are focused on these issues, attempting to find ways to reweave agriculture's waste into new energy gold, and bringing new alternatives (biodiesel, ethanol, etc.) into play.

Throughout the West, a new philosophy of farming is awakening in everyone from the farmer to the processor, which turns up the juice for protecting our resources. Not only does this mean continued health for the air, land and water, but also it could someday deliver value-added profits back to the farm.

Shepherding good farming

Shepherd's Grain, which markets Pacific wheat in identify-preserved mode while producing it via Food Alliance's certified sustainable way, is one example of environmentalism equaling economics. While getting more for your product by protecting resources remains elusive, it is an ideal forging ahead.

But there are premiums beyond price. If predictions are correct that climate changes over the next decades will continue to reduce snowpacks and impact our water supplies, fixing this is tantamount to disaster control.

Climate Friendly Farming, part of WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, is as diverse as it is relevant. Research under the rich Paul G. Allen Family Foundation endowment reaches to dairy anaerobic digestion probes and cropping systems regarding greenhouse-gas mitigation.

"There is more emphasis and interest in farming in a climate-friendly manner than ever," says Chad Kruger, the program's outreach director.

The farm role in environmental protection is ardently solicited by WSU, he adds.

"We may soon depend on farmers to help mitigate global climate change."

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that about 7% of the greenhouse-gas emissions today originate from agriculture (auto fumes are the big offender).

For more on Climate Friendly Farming, see the Web site at [cff.wsu.edu](http://cff.wsu.edu), or call Kruger at (509) 663-8181.



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