

WSU PUYALLUP HIGHLIGHT

July 28, 2006

BIOAg-Small Farms Program Field Day teaches, demonstrates and listens.



(Above left: Chris Feise welcomes attendees to the field day; At center: Mobile poultry units provide natural fertilizers; Above right: Dave Muehleisen (left) examines insects on a plant leaf.)

Over sixty people attended the WSU Puyallup BIOAg-Small Farms Program Field Day in mid-July. Although the crowd was mixed with growers, businesses, natural resource managers, legislators, students, and ag specialists, their focus and interest was uniform: they were here to learn about farming methods that are renewable, non-polluting and beneficial to farmers and society at large. Attendees heard overviews of the new WSU BIOAg program from CSANR Director Chris Feise and Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, BIOAg Coordinator. David Granatstein, CSANR-Wenatchee, gave a summary of an organic trends research project. The audience rotated around the 6-acre organic field plots to hear individual presentations from WSU Puyallup Faculty and research scientists. Andy Bary spoke on Pastured Poultry and Mobile On-Farm Processing, Craig Cogger and Doug Collins detailed ways to improve soil biology, and Dave Muehleisen demonstrated monitoring systems for beneficial insects. The working lunch/afternoon session provided discussion and spirited interchanges on obstacles, issues, and solutions for growing the reach of Biologically Intensive Agriculture and Organic Farming (BIOAg) in Washington.

WSU's statewide BIOAg program integrates research, teaching, and extension to help growers combine time-tested practices with innovations in production and marketing for Washington's \$6 billion agricultural sector that provides over 200 different crops and products. In 2006, the program received \$400,000 in start-up funding to help keep Washington's farms and food businesses competitive in a growing global market.

WSU Puyallup: Solutions for the Region- Programs for Its People.

Weekly Highlights is provided by the people and programs of WSU Puyallup. To include a highlight in an upcoming announcement, please contact either Tanyalee Erwin, terwin@wsu.edu, 253-445-4504, or Jon Newkirk, jnewkirk@wsu.edu, 253-445-4568. If your email is set to text messages only and you wish to see the graphical version of this Highlight, please email Tanyalee and she will send this Highlight as an attachment.