



Progress in Motion

A Salute to Agriculture

FALL 2007

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Working For You

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"Growing Opportunities"

Autumn in our area means harvest. A time of high activity in almost every aspect of agriculture. Can any of us imagine Prosser existing without agriculture? Our



innovative farmers and progressive agri-industries spark business opportunities within the community. Production from orchard and vineyards, field grains, and row crops; whether from large scale farming entities or small family owned operations along with the ag-industry processors, all stimulate the economy and create jobs. Agricultural related, value added businesses are flourishing within our own community. Bio energy, fuel and feedstocks, niche food products, "on the farm" businesses, innovative manufacturing; all are contributing to growth and prosperity. A healthy, rural town seeks to develop it's economy to compliment and assist agriculture. **Sustaining agriculture means sustaining our community.**

WSU IAREC
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Prosser in Top 5 US Emerging Wine Investment Areas



Prosser vineyard production, the proliferation of new



Washington State University's Irrigated Agriculture Research and Extension Center (IAREC) plays an integral role in the development of agricultural practices, access to a variety of findings from studies and onsite experiments, all designed to assist the agricultural producer remain highly productive, competitive and environmentally protective.

Dr. Robert Stevens, IAREC Interim Director also serves as 2007 Prosser EDA President, bringing to our organization a wealth of experience and agricultural knowledge; an area that is extremely important to the economic viability of our community. His article, published earlier this year in the Tri City Herald chronicled the many ongoing projects and developments at WSU IAREC.

[Read the entire article . . .](#)

wineries and expansion of others has caught the eye of investment groups.

Prosser ranks in the top five emerging wine investment regions in the United States, according to NuWireInvestor.com's article on the Top 5 Emerging Wine Investment Regions. "As the regions become more popular wine tourism destinations, there is increased demand for lodging, restaurants and other tourist-driven businesses," according to NuWire. Prosser is listed along with Walla Walla as promising areas for investment in Washington State. "Selection was based on real estate prices, historical and projected tourism growth, relative strength of rental markets, employment, cost of living and natural appeal," Jeremy Ames, NuWire's executive editor, said. Also noted were areas that had key infrastructure support, like economic development organizations. "This goes along with our belief that having organizations dedicated to regional growth greatly aid in the speed and quality of development in a given region," Ames said. Other cities/states making the top five are Dundee and McMinnville in Oregon; Marsing, Idaho; Sedona, Arizona; and Fredericksburg, Texas.

[Read full article . . .](#)

Prosser Farmers Market = Quality

2007 has proven to be an exciting year for the Prosser Farmers Market. Now in it's 14th year, the market has become a mainstay in our community. "Quality" should be the buzzword for the market!

It refers to the vendors as well as the goods they offer, market management, the Board of Directors, as well as the dedicated core of volunteers who make it all happen.

Attendance and sales were up this season, attracting more community members and a growing number of visitors. The market is an ideal venue for our local agricultural producers and crafters to showcase their wares.



**Biofuels
Demand
&
Industry**



Continue to Grow

According to a panel of biofuels producers, petroleum refiners, fuel distributors, agricultural experts and consumer advocates, Washington is well on its way to achieving a two-percent biofuels content standard for vehicle fuels sold in the state. The panel estimates the state is meeting the two-percent standard for the consumption of ethanol fuel. The state's current biodiesel consumption is only halfway to the two-percent standard, additional local refining capacity and retailing infrastructure will support the growing consumer demand for biodiesel made from canola and other sources. The Biofuels Advisory Committee is recommending the state move forward

Other items of note this year include the extension of the 2006, \$12,015 Project for Public Places grant. Grant objectives were to implement nutritional educational programs, create partnerships with local entities and organizations, continue the coop framework to support minority growers and build market sustainability with the bread & bakery sales and fund raisers. The grant was amended to continue with an additional \$5,000 awarded to the Market in 2007. The Board of Directors created a Junior Vendor program this year and plan for full implementation in 2008. The inaugural edition of the Market's "E Newsletter" was distributed in September of this year. The market's season will be ending soon but look for new developments and continued success next year.

with a renewable fuel use standard for both gasoline and diesel blends, requiring that two percent of the fuel purchased in the state by Dec. 1, 2008 be biodiesel and ethanol.

[For the complete news release . . .](#)



Who's Cooking Up Prosser Produce?

In his recent newsletter, Tom Douglas, reknowned chef and restaurateur reported on the wonderful produce he has been harvesting, preparing and serving from his farm in none other than Washington wine country's Prosser. "Some of this first season's bounty" from the Douglas farm is being served at many of Douglas' Seattle restaurant's Dahlia Lounge, Lola, Etta's or his newest creation, Serious Pie.

Source: Tom Douglas Seattle Kitchen Newsletter

Partner Quick Links

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AprèsVin . . .

All natural gourmet grape seed oils with distinct flavors distinguished by vintage and appellation. Eric Leber, a member of the Prosser EDA Board of



A P R È S V I N

Directors, has created a value added product stemming from our areas' burgeoning wine industry. These delicious hand crafted, cold pressed oils are excellent for dipping, sautéing, in sauces and salad dressings. They also offer health benefits; a rich source of polyunsaturated oils, antioxidants and may be effective in combating damaging free radicals. His new venture is another example of an innovative product stemming from agriculture. For more information email Eric at eric@apresvin.com.

Top 40 Under 40 . . .

Prosser's own Brenton Roy, CEO and President of Oasis Farms, Inc., was selected by the Puget Sound Business Journal as one of Washington's top young business leaders. Roy currently runs the family enterprise which grows apples, soft fruits, wine grapes and hops. After graduating from Gonzaga University then attending graduate school at Reed College, Roy decided academia was not his ideal career choice. His love of the outdoors and farming background beckoned. In his 8 years of stewardship, Oasis Farms has remained profitable and nearly tripled its gross income. Roy is active in farming organizations serving as Vice President of WA Association of Wine Grape Growers and past Sec/Treas of Hop Growers of Washington. He and his wife Alicia have two daughters, ages 2 and 4. Congratulations Brenton!

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