

# FFSC 2015 Conference Kennewick, WA



## Dryland Wheat Harvesting

Guy McCaw, at right, explains his 3-generation farming operation before the group departs the motor coach for their up-close look at the harvesting process. Guy and his family (includes father, Gus who is 88, son Jesse, nephew John, and others as needed) were half way through their harvest of 10,000 acres of wheat



when the FFSC group visited on July 31. The McCaws were running three CaseIH 8230 combines, two with 35-foot regular headers and one with a 40-foot draper header. The tilt capability of the machines comes through the installation of special body frames designed to keep the main combine chassis level at up to a 40 percent slope (demonstrated in photo at lower right). The custom adaptation costs over \$100,000 per machine. Karen Fieser, right, gives a big thumb's up after climbing off the combine which she rode across the side hill. Her husband, David, is in the jump seat of the combine shown above left. They are farmers from Norwich, KS. Below are some of the FFSC 'crew' who tolerated 107° heat to watch the hillside harvest --- yes there was lots of water and sun screen. Many of those visiting the McCaws that day had the opportunity to ride in the combines or in the units pulling the grain buggies. Following the farm visit the group went to Walla Walla where many found refuge in a local ice cream parlor.







## Two Full Days of Learning .....

(Clockwise from upper left) Michael Stolp, Northwest Farm Credit, set the stage and opened the sessions on July 30 with an overview of agriculture in the Pacific Northwest. Watching intently is Rob Mensonides, above, center. Rob and his wife Kami operate an organic farming operation near Moses Lake, WA. Matt Thurmond, right, gave a presentation on Granual Ag's new programs for farmers and ranchers and those involved with managing agricultural finances. New FFSC Marketing Committee Chair Brenda Duckworth, Kcoe-Isom, discussed new media and how to make the most of them. *Farm Futures* Executive Editor Mike Wilson, lower left, provided an industry overview and also discussed the FFSC blog program in place with the publication. He encouraged wider participation by all and any who are interested in contributing blogs. Dave Specht, center left, offered insights into working with farm and ranch families in perpetuating ownership and management within families and how to recognize and overcome obstacles in the process.







### Combining Business and Pleasure

Paul Neiffer, left, with CliftonLarsonAllen and FFSC President, was official host of the 3-day event which started with Council committee meetings on July 29. He expressed great pleasure in welcoming a very diverse group of attendees that ranged from coast to coast and included all types of agricultural enterprises. The opening meetings that day segued into a full day of speaker sessions on July 30 and a half day on the 31st. Todd Doehring, Centrec Consulting, at center, above, co-chair of the Council's Technical Committee, led discussion regarding updates in both the *Financial* and *Management Accounting Guide-*

*lines* documents. The two new documents will be released for general distribution in January 2016. At right, Mark Wood, Kansas Farm Management and Deena Brown, CGB Agri Financial Services, indulge themselves during the Ice Cream Social break on the afternoon of the 30th while Jeff Bushey, with Nietzke and Faupel, adds extra topping to his sundae. Lyle Anderson, Rabo AgriFinance, chats with Allen Miller, Purdue University (retired) in some serious conversation during the social break. One attendee at the conference observed "To me the networking was as valuable as the speakers on the program. We have so many folks here from across the country and from all walks of agriculture. This is just amazing."







### Dining and Shopping At Country Mercantile

From upper left, Kent and Karen Meister, visit with Jon Farquharson. Kent, with Pioneer FBFM Association, Bloomington, IL, is a past Council president and Jon, Columbia Bank, Portland, OR, is a former board member; Shelly Thompson enjoyed the evening and kept tight reins on husband Owen as he shopped for jellies to take home to Owatonna, MN; (lower right) Cynthia Daughhete, Daughhete & Associates, Scottsdale, AZ, a first-time attendee at the Conference, visits with veteran Tom Groppe, Cedar Ridge Farm, Jerseyville, IL. (Lower left) Joe Kessie, Lake City Bank visits with fellow Hoosier Freddie Barnard from Purdue University. At left, Ron Jones, Scythe and Spade, Twin Falls, ID, measures out his candy purchase.



The group enjoyed dinner, shopping and socializing at Country Mercantile, near Pasco, WA, on July 30.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

2016 FFSC Conference  
 July 13 - 15  
 Padlock Ranch near Sheridan, Wyoming

