



The Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame was formed in Year 2000 to recognize and honor distinguished individuals that have made significant contributions to the agricultural community in the Greater Franklin County region and its immediate surrounding areas; although nominees from neighboring counties of Franklin County within a 150-mile radius are often also considered for this prestigious award.

The Pasco Chamber Board has proudly created a Selection Committee comprised of quality individuals representative of our agriculture industry and has chartered them with the honorable task of reviewing all nomination submittals. Induction candidates are selected based on their outstanding performance in the agriculture industry and their bountiful support of the local and rural communities. Candidates are recognized by their peers for not only their dedication, generosity, and selflessness, but also their demonstrated achievements, noteworthy expertise, and creative innovations that often provide a legacy of impactful results and lasting benefit to the overall enhancement of the local agricultural industry and community at large. Farmers, growers, ranchers, and owners/employees of agribusiness firms are all eligible for nomination as either individuals and/or families.

The Ag Hall of Fame inductions will be presented at a special gala January 18, 2023 at the Pasco Red Lion. *Deadline for Application is November 1, 2022.*

Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame Intent to Nominate

Nominee's Name Fred Olberding
Mailing Address 911 Birch Road Pasco, WA 99301
Nominee's Phone ⁵⁰⁹ 727-2505 Fax _____ E-Mail folberding@gmail.com
Date of Birth 11-11-53 Birthplace Emmett, Idaho
Date of Death (if deceased) _____
Nominator's Name Sarah Parham & Blake Olberding (children)
Phone ⁵⁰⁹ 430-5034 Fax _____ E-Mail sarahparham11@gmail.com
Family Contact same as above
Phone _____ Fax _____ E-Mail _____

submitted 10/31/22

Nomination Package Requirements

1. Cover of Nomination packet (front page)

Name of Nominee
Hi Resolution Photo of Nominee
The Nominator and relation
Date submitted

2. Years of Community and Agriculture Service

Please list no more than twenty (20) organizations and services the Nominee has participated in to enhance our agriculture community. (E.g. commissions, associations, community service, volunteer activities and events, etc.)

3. Brief Bio of Nominee

Please provide (1-2 pages) of background information profiling the Nominee's family history and childhood experiences, including the geographic region of Nominee's upbringing. Be sure to emphasize any and all character traits and attributes unique to the Nominee and discuss personal interests and values that would help create a *Nominee signature story*. As the Nominator, it is imperative to include your personal sentiments and justification to support the selection of your Nominee into the Mid-Columbia Agriculture Hall of Fame.

4. Attachments (not to exceed ten (10) pages)

Please provide photos, newspaper, and/or magazine clips, individual letters of recognition and support, special awards, event photos etc.

Upon request, the Chamber will provide a guideline to serve as a framework to assist you with the development of your submittal, as well as writing and editing resources. It is important that the nomination process remain streamlined, easy, and enjoyable.

Return completed nomination form:

Pasco Chamber of Commerce
1110 Osprey Pointe Blvd, Suite 101
Pasco, WA 99301



Years of Community and Agricultural Service

- 4-H: Fred volunteered at the auction and helped with the construction of the panels in the arena. He has offered his land for a 4-H club to raise pumpkins for fund raising.
- Construction of Little League Fields
- Graduate of Washington State AgForestry 1997-1999

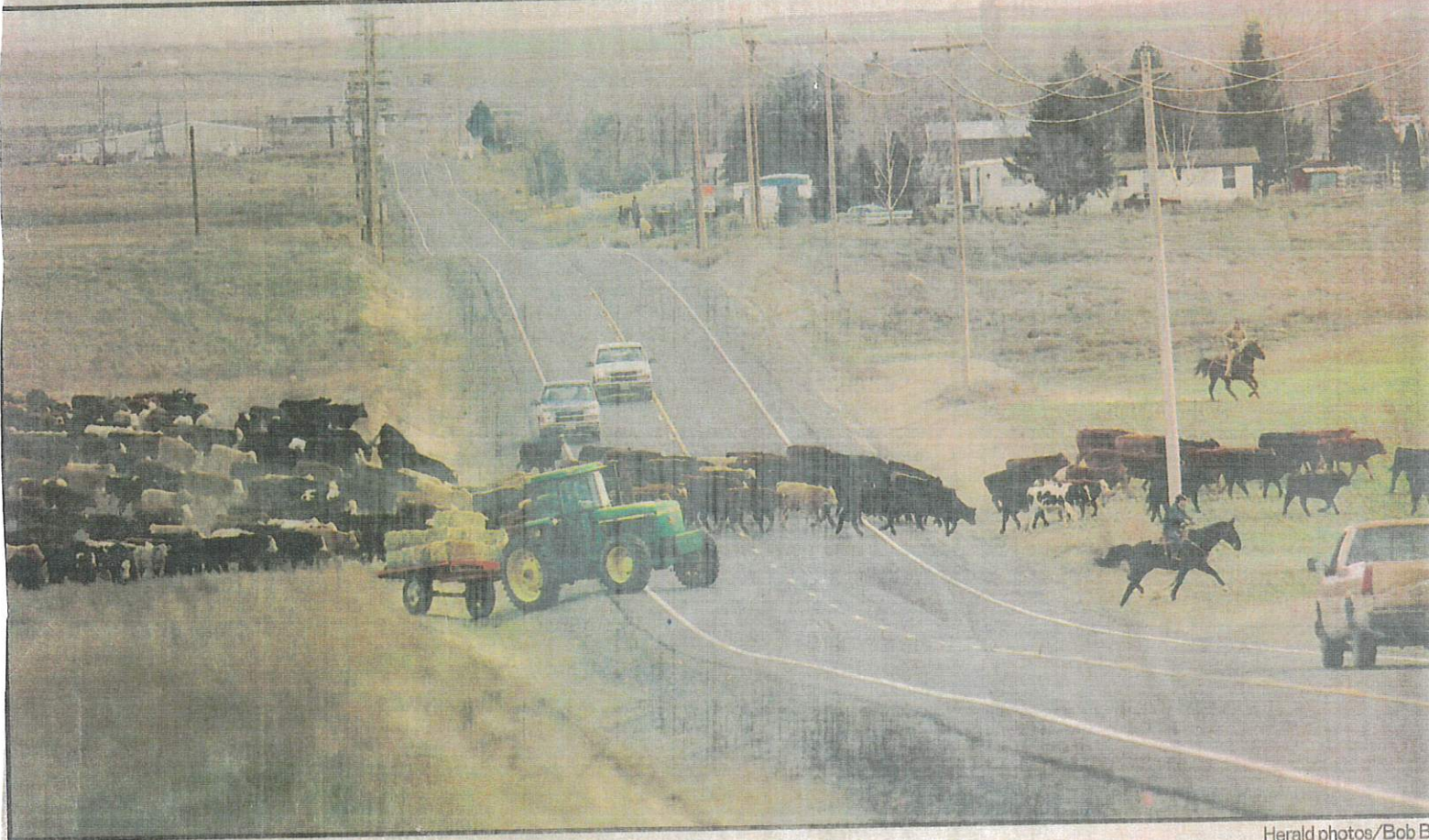
Brief Biography of Nominee

Fred Olberding grew up on Block 11 in Connell. His parents Paul Olberding and Sally Olberding had a cattle, alfalfa and corn farm and raised their 6 children to know what it means to work diligently and serve their community. Fred has always been ambitious. As a child he spent hours farming in the dirt with his mother's spoons making straight rows for his pretend crops and watering them a Hi-C can. This same ambition led him to raise his own herd of cattle to pay for college and graduate from WSU with a degree in Ag Business. After working for Wilbur Ellis, he and his brother Allen went into business together and formed L.C Farming in 1980 and Olberding Seed in the late 80's. They grew potatoes in rotation with sweet corn, alfalfa, and timothy hay and cut their own potato seed. Over the years they received several top potato awards from McCain foods, Lamb Weston, and Simplot. Occasionally, they would have cows graze their fields and one year they met the demand for potatoes by farming in Arizona and California.

As our dad it seemed like there was nothing he could not do as we watched him oversee the operations of LC farming and serve at the fair. Fred was just the type of person who didn't balk at a challenge and would figure out how to solve it. He welded pig panels for the fair while welding around the farm. He experimented with growing new crops such as cucumbers and broccoli. We spent time on his lap in a tractor and in his office as he would type away at his tape calculator with hands stained with grease and pvc glue. This image captures who Fred is as a farmer, an analytical and motivated businessman who figures out how to solve whatever problem comes his way all while caring for his family and taking time to help the community.

Currently, Fred farms potatoes, sweet corn and hay with his son Blake Olberding for Cloud 9 Farms and spends time with his grandkids around the farm. His love of farming has resulted in trying to farm new things on the side. Most recently he grew Indian Corn and gave his grandkids a field of corn and a challenge to draw the best maze. Grandpa Farmer made the maze a reality and kids had a blast trekking through the maze. Small fields of butternut and cabbage have fed his family and friends while pumpkins have created an income for a 4-H group and provided free field trips for students. Instead of opting for a streamlined hay and potato crop, Fred has chosen to plant sweet corn which has provided highschoolers and his grandkids an opportunity to earn money. When he plants sweet corn he is planting the seed of a strong work ethic and how to run a business in the hearts and minds of these kids. He also donates a portion of his sweet corn profit to benefit Partner Haiti, a locally ran mission. In keeping step with his upbringing, Fred likes to have cows from time to time which has provided his family and opportunity to learn and work cattle.

Getting along with the little dogies



Herald photos/Bob B

A herd of 750 head of cattle cross Clark Road on Friday morning as cowboys on horses and four-wheelers drive them to a pasture about

one mile west of Road 68 in Pasco. A tractor towing a trailer load with feed also joins the drive.

Round up little bit country, little bit 4-wheel drive

Potato Country

February, 2001

**Washington's
Allen Olberding
New NPC President**

Harriston
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NPC Annual Meeting

Olberding to Head NPC

Allen Olberding, Pasco, Wash., is the new president of the National Potato Council (NPC). He replaced Chuck Gunnerson, Ada, Minn., who completed the traditional one-year term.

His election took place during the NPC's 52nd Annual Meeting, Jan. 16-20, at the Catamaran Resort in San Diego, Calif. At that same meeting Olberding also was honored with the Potato Man of the Year Award, presented by Grower Magazine.

Olberding is in his fourth year of service on the NPC Executive Committee. He served three years as vice president of environmental affairs and has been affiliated with the Council since being selected to participate in its Young Growers Program in 1988.

The new president also has nine years of service on the Washington State Potato Commission (WSPC), one year of that as chairman and an additional year as past chairman. He served on the WSPC from 1989 to 1998.

Involved in a Partnership

Olberding farms with his brother, Fred, under a partnership known as LC Farming, north of Pasco on Glade Road. The two farm approximately 2,100 acres, growing around 1,000 acres of potatoes each year in rotation with sweet corn, alfalfa and timothy hay. Approximately 700 acres of their potatoes are early varieties, including 500 acres of Shepodyes and 200 acres of Rangers. Their later varieties are Umatilla and Russet; there usually are 150 acres of each.

All of their potatoes are under

contract with area processors, including Lamb-Weston, Simplot and McCain.

Allen was born in Connell, Wash., in 1955, and grew up on a cattle, corn and alfalfa farm located between Othello and Connell. After completing high school in 1973, he spent the next three years

service with Taggares in 1976, selling both fertilizers and farm chemicals. Part of his responsibility was with Chief-Ready Foods, also owned by Taggares, where he was involved primarily with raw product. Among his responsibilities were monitoring potatoes in storage.

In 1980, Olberding and his brother, Fred, began what has been a life-long working relationship, custom haying at Ice Harbor Farms, along the Snake River, east of Pasco. In 1981, they grew their first grain crops together, and then in 1982 planted and harvested their first potato crop.

Many Ups and Downs

While the two are quick to admit they've had their ups and downs over the years, the 2000 potato crop was one of the best they can remember in terms of yield and quality.

What was unusual about last year, Allen says, is that despite the higher yields there were very few internal problems. That has not always been the case. The higher the yields, the larger the percentage of tubers with internal defects.

The brothers generally begin planting potatoes around Mar. 7. While some of their neighbors are in the fields a little earlier, most of their ground needs an extra week or so to warm up and dry out, they believe. Their planting season stretches through mid-April.

The harvest season begins in early July, and from there continues, bit and miss, through mid-October, Allen adds. On the early varieties, processors make the call on when digging begins and how



Allen Olberding receiving the "Potato Grower of the Year" Award.

completing an ag chem course at Columbia Basic College in Pasco. The program focused on the fertilizer and pesticide side of agriculture. Students enrolled in the program attended college during the fall and winter and interned with various fertilizer companies during the spring and summer.

Olberding's first jobs were with American Fertilizer and P.J. Taggares Co., both of Othello. He began full time

many are harvested at a given time. The potatoes are delivered directly from the field.

Harvesting of the storage crop begins in mid-September and is generally wrapped up within a month. Half of the crop goes into their own 8,000-ton storage and the balance direct to processors for processing or into company owned storages.

Seed Potato Sources

The Olberdings purchase their seed from a number of different production areas. They cut all of their seed, bringing in a crew in the spring to help with the task.

They also own and operated a small grain, alfalfa and grass seed sales agency, marketing seed to neighbors. The family side business is a dealership only. They do not grow any of the seed sold. Allen and Jim Bott handle the sales.

On the farm, Fred supervises most of the day-to-day farming operations, while Allen focuses on the seed cutting and storage side of the business and works with the crew in the shop during the winter time. The brothers divide up the irrigation duties and work closely together on all other aspects of the business.

Because of Allen's involvement in the NPC and WSPC, he has, and continues to rely heavily on Fred to fill in the gaps whenever he is gone. His leadership roles have required occasional trips and hours of planning and preparation that have necessitated Fred's cooperation.

"I simply couldn't do any of this without Fred's help," he says. "I'm most appreciative."

At present, the new NPC president is planning the Council's summer meeting, to be held in late June or early July in Washington State. Also, in the planning stage is the annual meeting, which will take place in January, 2002, in San Antonio, Texas. Allen will visit the nation's capitol in February, joining with



Olberding addressing NPC delegates during the organization's recent meeting in San Diego

other NPC representatives to meet with legislative leaders and others involved in helping protect the interests of U.S. potato growers.

Having been heavily involved with the NPC's Environmental

Affairs Committee for a number of years, Allen says environmental stewardship will continue to be an important part of his focus. He is proud of the NPC's environmental accomplishments, including the protection of various chemical labels considered critical to the potato industry.

"There have been no cancellations, other than voluntary ones, where the

are involved in an IPM program. They use products designed to protect their crops while having reduced risk to the environment.

"Our biggest challenges have been disease and weather," the NPC president says. "Late blight, early blight, aphids, leaf roll and other challenges require constant vigilance. You start out with a full pie, and every time you make a mistake you lose a slice. It's important to make as few mistakes as you can. By the end of the season you want to have something left that can help you cover your costs."

As NPC president, Allen says he hopes to encourage the Bush Administration to be less demanding in their interpretation of the Food Quality Protection Act, of concern to many growers. The law is not going to go away,

he says, but hopefully it will not be as rigidly interpreted. The new administration should be a positive.

"The law restricts our ability to get back into the field," he says. "It also restricts our post-harvest dates. We've managed to live with it so far, but it has created some discomfort in certain areas. One positive is that it has forced us to go out and aggressively look at different chemical alternatives. In the end, that's good."

The new NPC president and his wife, Cheryl, have three children: Traei, 24, married and teaching classes at Pasco High School and CBC; Kelli, 23, married, living in Yakima and enrolled in nurses' training; and Randi, 17, a junior at Pasco High School.

Traei completed the same ag chem training program at CBC as her father, making them the first father-and-daughter combination on record to complete the course.

Fred has two children, Blake, 19, a freshman at CBC and employed on the farm, and Sarah, 21, a junior at Gonzaga University in Spokane. ■



Allen, left, and brother, Fred, farm together in a partnership known as LC Farming, north of Pasco, Wash.

chemical companies have withdrawn the labels themselves," he says. "We haven't had to mitigate any of the uses. We're very proud of these accomplishments."

Believes in Good Environmental Stewardship

Practicing good environmental stewardship has always been important to the Olberding brothers. They continue to experiment with different products and

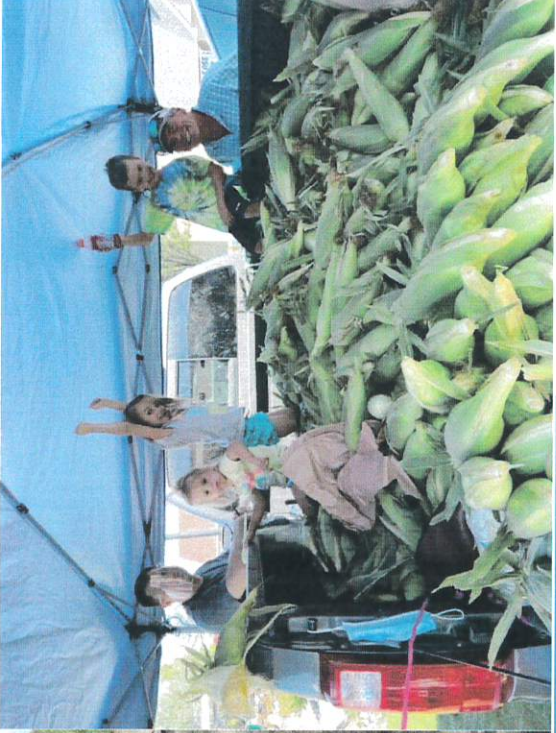


Market Stock Market Stock Honoree 2019



Working cows with family and grandkids over the years.





Grandpa Farmer is always taking time to teach the next generation about farming and good work ethic.