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Agriculture Show Schedule

- Cropping Systems Conference**
JANUARY 12-13, 2016
Three Rivers Convention Center
- Northwest Hay Expo**
JANUARY 20-21, 2016
Three Rivers Convention Center
- Washington-Oregon Potato Conference**
JANUARY 26-28, 2016
Three Rivers Convention Center
- Spokane Ag Expo**
FEBRUARY 2-4 2016
Spokane Convention Center

Service Highlight



Bring in your used end gun and have it rebuilt to factory specs for only \$350! Team up with Nelson, and we all win! Some specifics apply so give us a call at or stop by to see if your gun is eligible for this rebuild program!



January 2016

www.skoneirrigation.com

Pasco: 509-545-8420 • Warden: 509-349-7364

A NEW ERA OF Efficiency

Water is a precious resource. When it's in short supply, it can be a real struggle to get by. Every once in a while, entire fields must be written off and crop left to wither and die. On the other side of that coin, when water is plentiful, it's easy to take for granted.

Thankfully, innovations in irrigation technology and methodology allow us to be more efficient than ever. And it's not just efficiency in the way we use water to irrigate, but how we use our time. Irrigation efficiency is part getting the most out of our water, drop for drop, and part getting the biggest benefit, dollar for dollar.

Speaking of those dollars, the Bonneville Power Administration is sitting on about a billion dollars of

incentives for irrigators. Through local utilities, the BPA is offering rebates and other similar incentives to farmers, growers, and others who update to more water-efficient equipment. You can find rebates for new brass sprinklers, new gaskets for wheel lines, new low-pressure regulators with pivot sprinklers, premium efficiency motors, and scientific irrigation scheduling, just to name a few.

Naturally, the offers come with terms and conditions, and the exact details and eligibility can vary, but it might be worth exploring if you are looking for ways to save money and work more efficiently. For more information, you can check the BPA website (www.bpa.gov), or you can ask us. We'll gladly help you find the answer you're looking for.

When the price of crops shifts out of the grower's favor, your efficiency can have a huge impact on your bottom line. More growers are investing in technology such as telemetry systems, which help them use their time better. Instead of going out to a field multiple times per day, they're going out maybe once.

There are many new products on the market that allow growers to accomplish some remarkable things while reducing the amount of water they're using. While some growers are focused on upgrades centered on higher horsepower, others are taking a hard look at their fields and the soil. You can actually save money by reducing horsepower and installing smaller pipes — if going in that direction makes sense for the land you're working with.

"More growers are investing in technology such as telemetry systems, which help them use their time better. Instead of going out to a field multiple times per day, they're going out maybe once."

We work with a lot of growers who come to us to figure out how they can be more efficient. We recently became a dealer for Ranch Systems out of California. They offer a number of solutions aimed at achieving greater efficiency, from weather stations to soil moisture tracking. When you're monitoring your soil moisture and water usage, you can use that data to become more efficient over time. That data can help you respond appropriately during times of drought.

And we don't need to tell you drought is one of the biggest reasons to invest in more efficient systems. In Eastern Washington, many growers rely on the Odessa aquifer, which has been utilized for irrigation since the early 1960s. Since then, the source has slowly declined, causing a number of ecological issues. While focusing on improved efficiency is only a small solution to a much bigger problem, it still helps. This year, as you prepare for your next growing season, consider what you can do to achieve greater irrigation efficiency.

- Erik Skone

How to Set a Personal Finance Resolution

One of the biggest problems with most New Year's resolutions is that they're vague. Take a simple resolution like "save more money." It sounds like a worthy goal, but it's so nebulous that even if you intend to do it in the moment, you're very unlikely to follow through.

The first thing to do is pick a specific number you want to hit, such as 10 percent of your income or \$500 per month. Now, it's time to break down that goal into actionable steps. One step is to ask yourself if you can save \$500 per month, for example.

Well, in order to answer that, you probably need to consider your budget! If you don't have a budget yet, software like Mint or Quicken can help you track your expenses and your income, giving you a picture of how much you can save.

If you can hit your goal, great! Consider arranging for automatic contributions to your savings or retirement account from your paycheck. If you don't have the money, though, you have a few

options: You can lower your goal to what you're able to save right now, or you can keep your goal where it is and take steps to achieve it.

There's nothing wrong with saving what you can right now, even if it's a bit shy of your ideal savings rate. But if you want to hit that high rate, or if you're so over leveraged that you're barely living within your means, then you may have some tough decisions to make. Cutting expenses and boosting your income are two examples of actions you can take to create room for additional saving, but those are mini-goals in themselves!

So many people don't end up following through — they never put in the time and effort to really flesh out their resolution and figure out all the steps needed to get there. It's those little steps that add up to a substantive change. If you want to look back on 2016 and marvel at how far you've come, it all starts with the right resolution!



It's Doggone Cold

Many pet owners assume that their furry friends are built to withstand the winter, but the truth is, when you're cold, they're cold too. In fact, most dogs require some special TLC during the winter months, so here are a few things to keep in mind.

First of all, if you think those doggie sweaters and jackets are just for show, think again. While heavy-coated dogs like Huskies are better suited for snowy weather, no dog is immune to hypothermia or frostbite. Most dogs could benefit from a winter jacket to keep them warm during colder months — especially if your pup is short-haired, sick, or elderly.



On that note, booties aren't just adorable, they're essential for keeping your dog safe and healthy through the new year. Winter sidewalks are often coated with salt or ice melts, and those dangerous chemicals could get stuck in your pup's paws ...

"Even heavy-coated dogs get cold, and all dogs, no matter how much fur, are happiest sleeping inside on those long, cold nights."

PROUDLY PARTNERED WITH REINKE

What That Means for You

We're partnered with Reinke for one big reason — Reinke delivers amazing products. Of course, there's so much more that goes into this kind of partnership.

When we recommend products to growers, we do it for a reason. At Skone, we know what you need is incredibly important. You have a job to do, and you need to get it done as efficiently as possible, whether that means getting the best price or the perfect part.

As a Reinke dealer, we have access to their top-notch line of products. They produce some of the most durable, user-friendly, trouble-free systems on the market. When they're easy to use and maintain, that means less work and worry for you. It's hard to beat the efficiency that comes along with what Reinke delivers.

Plus, Reinke's mechanized irrigation systems reduce the number of hours you have to spend on regular (or irregular) maintenance. Basically, you don't have to check your system manually. Instead, you have the option to run systems with minimal monitoring. One option, the Reinke Automated Management System (R.A.M.S.), puts one person in control, managing single- or multiple-system operations.

— V-RING —

WE SAW THE LIGHT WHEN WE DECIDED THAT OUR V-RING FLANGE GASKET WOULDN'T SEE ANY.

The V-Ring seal's **25-YEAR WARRANTY** is true assurance.

— VRI —

VIEW YOUR VRI PRESCRIPTION AT THE CONTROL PANEL. A REINKE EXCLUSIVE.

REINKE VARIABLE RATE IRRIGATION

Walk down the length of a Reinke pivot and section by section, part by part, you'll see engineering and materials that provide superior strength and durability. From the pivot center, all the way to the end gun, every Reinke innovation will find a valuable place on your farm. For more information, visit REINKE.COM or contact your local dealer.

THE SUM OF SUPERIOR PARTS EQUALS A GREATER WHOLE.

— ONTRAC —

BE **EVERYWHERE** AT THE SAME TIME.

ONTRAC REMOTE MANAGEMENT PRODUCTS

— STEEL —

HIGH STRENGTH STEEL: **50% STRONGER**

THE LONGEST STRUCTURAL WARRANTY IN THE INDUSTRY.

The technological advantages don't end there. Every new Reinke system comes with a computer-designed water application system. The system uses your specific growing criteria. That way, you can line up the application rate with the soil intake rate, keeping runoff to a minimum. It's hard to beat that kind of efficiency.

If you have questions about Reinke products (or any products we carry), just let us know. We're always more than happy to help you find the best solution for any of your irrigation needs.

Cheddar Turkey Casserole

INGREDIENTS

- 4 cups uncooked spiral pasta
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 3 tablespoons butter
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon prepared mustard
- ¼ teaspoon dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 2 cups milk
- 1 ½ cups (6 ounces) shredded cheddar cheese
- 2 cups cubed cooked turkey
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- ½ cup slivered almonds

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350° F. Cook pasta according to package directions.
2. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, sauté garlic in butter until tender. Stir in flour, salt, mustard, thyme, and pepper. Gradually stir in milk.
3. Bring to a boil; cook and stir 2 minutes or until thickened. Remove from heat; stir in cheese until melted. Drain pasta; place in a large bowl. Toss with turkey, vegetables, and cheese sauce.
4. Transfer to a greased 13x9-inch baking dish. Sprinkle with almonds. Bake, uncovered, 35-40 minutes or until heated through. Yield: 6 servings.

SKONE IRRIGATION'S 1ST ANNUAL PIVOT SCHOOL!

- **February 8th** – Pasco: Basic Electrical 8:30-2:00
- **February 9th** – Pasco: Swing Arm Corners 8:30-2:00
- **February 10th** – Pasco: Panel Programming 8:30-12:00
- **February 16th** – Warden: Basic Electrical 8:30-2:00
- **February 17th** – Warden: Swing Arm Corners 8:30-2:00
- **February 18th** – Warden: Panel Programming 8:30-12:00

Cost is \$60.00 and includes service manual and lunch. To RSVP call Chad Darcy or Cassie Skone at 509-349-7364.

which they will later lick clean. If booties are out of your (or your dog's) comfort level, at least wipe their paws with a warm washcloth after each and every outing. This will keep them from developing sores on their paws or ingesting toxic chemicals.

Additionally, if your dog is used to living outside during the summer months, don't assume the same applies to winter. Even heavy-coated dogs get cold, and all dogs, no matter how much fur, are happiest sleeping inside on those long, cold nights. If your dog must live outdoors (if only during the day), ensure they have a warm shelter to escape the elements, a cozy blanket, and a heated water dish. You don't want to snack on Popsicles during the winter months, and neither does your pet.

Keep in mind that colder temperatures can be especially hard on older or arthritic dogs. Limit their outdoor exposure and provide them with a nice warm place to rest their achy bones. Ask your vet about arthritis supplements or joint medication that will help your older pup rest easy through the winter. And remember: There's no better cure for a winter chill than curling up by the fire with your favorite furry friend.