

COMMISSIONERS RECORD 43  
FRANKLIN COUNTY  
Commissioners' Proceeding for December 18, 2002



Mosquito Control

Mr. Brock said one of the Board members needs to be the contact for Mosquito Control work, at least for the present time. He is willing to do so. The Board agreed to have Mr. Brock be the contact person. Mr. Brock said he has been told there have been four or five cases of West Nile virus in the state of Washington. At least two had the virus before they entered the state.

**WSU EXTENSION DEPARTMENT**

WSU Extension Agent Erik Sorensen met with the Board.

Department Update

Mr. Sorensen gave the Board each a copy of the book Washington Agricultural Statistics 2002 which uses 2001 figures. Franklin County ranks second on the major commodities. The 2002 state figures are available on-line.

Last week we were the host for the National Allium Research Conference in Pasco for four days. It is held every two years, primarily for people doing research on onion, garlic and other allium crops. There were 150 people. The program was opened up more to local growers and local industry people. Onions and garlic are the primary allium crops. Allium is the family name. Shallots, leeks, and chives are also related botanically. Onions are quite a valuable crop. It's worth more than barley or sorghum. It has increased over the last three years. The value of garlic produced in the United States has dropped by more than half because of imports from China. They were already the world's largest producer of garlic. A lot of garlic is used in dehydrated products such as garlic powder.

There were 440 people who registered for the vegetable conference in November.

Mr. Sorensen went to India in November to attend an international vegetable conference. The Vegetable Association helped pay his way. There were 650 papers presented at the conference. Mr. Sorensen presented a paper at the conference in India about carrots. He gave the Board a copy. This article has been printed in the Seattle Times. This was the biggest meeting he has ever been to with meetings lasting into the night. It lasted five days, one of which was a tour. India has recently joined the World