

Biographical Sketch - R. L. "Dick" Wittman

Dick Wittman manages an 18,000-acre dry land crop, range cattle and timber operation in northern Idaho in partnership with three other family partners. He also provides workshops and private consulting to farm, ranch and agricultural support businesses.



After receiving a degree in Agricultural Economics from the University of Idaho and an MBA from the University of Utah, Wittman worked for the Farm Credit System from 1972-1980. His banking career concluded with the Farm Credit Administration in Washington, D. C., where he supervised Farm Credit operations in several Eastern, mid-West, and Southern US districts.

In 1980 he joined the family farm in Idaho and established a part-time private consulting practice. Wittman has worked with numerous farm clients and professional practitioners, conducted seminars, facilitated strategic planning, taught college classes and developed videotape training modules on a variety of topics throughout the U. S., Canada, and Australia. He specializes in financial management, developing management systems and solutions for business relationship/transition problems. In January, 2004, he released a guidebook entitled **Building Effective Farm Management Systems**. This guidebook provides a toolkit for commercial-size family farm businesses to define their ultimate vision and put in place a professional management and transition process that will lead them to that goal.

Wittman has served on several industry, community and financial institution boards, and lobbied on a variety of national farm policy issues, including the USA Dry Pea and Lentil Council (5-yrs as president), the University of Idaho Ag Consulting Council (chairman '97/'98), Inland Empire Pea Growers Cooperative, Twin River National Bank (1982-89), and Advisory Council (chairman) for the UI Ag Economics and Rural Sociology Department. He is a founding director and past president of the Pacific Northwest Direct Seed Association, a regional organization working to further the adoption of no-till or direct seeding in the Northwest, and currently serves on several advisory boards developing national policies on Carbon Trading.

In 1996 he became a director and in 2006 served as president of the Farm Financial Standards Council, a core group of farm management and financial experts who have been working for over 25 years to professionalize farm accounting and financial analysis processes. The council recently released national guidelines to help producers implement Managerial Accounting systems.

Wittman is a contributing editor for Farm Futures magazine, and has served on the faculty for the TEPAP Ag Executive Program in Austin, Texas since 2003.

Wittman and his wife, Dawn, have raised five children. Stewardship has been a Wittman Family Farm tradition. The farm was selected as the national Millennium Farm Family in 2000 by the Ag Earth Partnership. Wittman also received the 2002 Governor's Award for Excellence in Agriculture in Environmental Stewardship. The Wittman Family sponsors an Outdoor Education Camp located on their farm in cooperation with the local Boys and Girls Club. Begun in 1988, this camp gives hundreds of students, teachers and natural resource professionals annually an exposure to key natural resource concepts, and it enables the farm to share its vision on how a farm can be managed, shared, and kept sustainable for future generations.

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