



Hort Headlines

January 8, 2009

- **Sign Up For Tree Fruit Day** – WSHA's 7th Annual Tree Fruit Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3, in Olympia. The one-day event will include visits with key legislators and agency officials. Tree fruit industry gift boxes will also be distributed again this year to all legislators and their legislative assistants. Visit the WSHA web-site to download a [registration form](#).
- **2009 Legislative Session Underway Soon** – The 2009 legislative session in Olympia begins on Monday. During the 105-day session lawmakers will try to bridge a projected budget deficit of about nearly \$6 billion -- and rising. Legislators will have to identify new or additional revenue or cut public services and programs. WSHA is monitoring a number of issues and committees on behalf of the tree fruit industry. In the Senate, many agricultural issues will be handled in the Agriculture & Rural Economic Development. The committee's new chairperson will be Sen. Brian Hatfield (Raymond), former committee vice chair and a long-time ag committee member. The House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee also has a new chair this year: Rep. Brian Blake (Aberdeen), whose education and work experience has centered on forestry and environmental studies.
- **Stay Informed About Legislative Issues** – Throughout the year, WSHA's Government Affairs Program will keep you up to date on legislative events and issues through our Capitol View e-mail reports. Capitol View will run every other week throughout the legislative session. This represents the most current tool available on cutting-edge political issues available to the tree fruit industry.

Capital View is one more service made available to the industry thanks to WSHA dues-paying members.

- **Unemployment In Washington State Sets New Record** – In December 2008, a record number of new unemployment claims were filed with the Employment Security Department. More than 90,000 people applied for regular unemployment benefits in December, an increase of 75 percent over December 2007. The previous record was set in December 2001, when 72,942 people filed initial claims. At the end of 2008, more than 136,000 Washingtonians were receiving unemployment benefits, compared to 72,910 at the end of 2007. Unemployment benefits are paid out of the state's Unemployment-Insurance Trust Fund. The trust fund has a current balance of more than \$4 billion and is considered to be one of the healthiest in the nation.
- **Fruit Grower Decision-Making Workshop** – A series of free computer workshops have been designed to assist fruit growers with long-term decision making. Three workshops are scheduled to teach growers how to use A Grower's Technology Economic Assessment Model computer program. There is no cost to attend but pre-registration is requested since space is limited to only 15 students. The workshops are scheduled for January 20, in Wenatchee; January 22, in Moses Lake; and February 3, in Omak. Contact WSU to register (509) 422-7245 or email suveryly@wsu.edu.
- **North Central Washington Apple Day** – Apple Day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 2009 at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, WA from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Two pesticide education certification credits awarded for attending the meeting. For more information, contact Chelan County Extension at 509-667-6540.
- **North Central Washington Pear Day** – Pear Day is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2009 at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, WA from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Topics covered will include future of pear production in Washington, pear research, Psylla, GRAS2P, organic pear production, chemical thinning, crop load management, marketing as well as the election of the Wenatchee grower position to the Fresh Pear Committee. Two pesticide education certification credits awarded for attending the meeting. For more information, contact Chelan County Extension at 509-667-6540.
- **North Central WA Stone Fruit Day** – Stone Fruit Day is set for Thursday, January 22, 2009 at the Wenatchee Convention Center in Wenatchee, WA and is sponsored by WSU Extension and the Washington State Fruit Commission. This program begins at 9:00 a.m. with a welcoming address and season overview by WSU Extension agent Tim Smith. Two pesticide education certification credits awarded for attending the meeting. For more information, contact Chelan County Extension at 509-667-6540.

- **Pest Management Workshops** – WSU Chelan County Extension will be providing Pest Management Workshops. The IPM workshops cover various topics that highlight critical issues, discuss industry trends, and point out possible horticultural and business solutions. The training workshops are presented by Tim Smith, WSU Extension. For more information email smithtj@wsu.edu.
 - **January 28** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **February 17** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **February 7** | 10:00 – 12:00 p.m. Oroville (2 credits)

(Note Below: attend both sessions 1 and 2 for complete pesticide license pre-testing training)

 - **February 25** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **March 4** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
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Headline Links

Food Terrorism Tops 2009 Safety Scare List – Economic terrorism and deadly strains of E. coli are among the main food safety issues that manufacturers could face in the US in 2009, according to a law firm which represents victims of food-borne illness outbreaks. Learn more on this story from [the Food Navigator](#).

Laser Experiment Hopes To Save Farm Water – Jan Kleissl and a handful of his students at the University of California at San Diego think technology using laser beams might lead to a better way to conserve the millions of gallons of water sprayed each year on thirsty crops. Read more at [the Wenatchee World](#).

Use Of Guestworker Program Continues To Rise – The number of foreign seasonal workers hired in Washington, mainly for tree fruit work and harvest, grew in 2008 and some industry officials think it will rise again next year. Read the following article at [the Wenatchee World](#).

New Migrant Housing: Malaga-Area Sage Bluff Is Ready For Grower Sign-Ups – Sage Bluff is empty and covered with snow, but the Washington Growers League is ready to sign up growers to lease the new migrant housing for next year's tree fruit season. Visit [the Wenatchee World](#) to learn more.

Organic Still Not Mainstream – Organic foods are yet to gain mainstream

acceptance by US consumers according to a new study by a marketing research and consulting firm in the consumer products industry. Visit [*the Food Navigator*](#) to read more.

County Lands Grant For Monitor Bridge Upgrade – Chelan County has secured a big chunk of change to shore up the century-old West Monitor Bridge. Visit [*the Wenatchee World*](#) to read more.

Calls For Food Safety Regulation Overhaul – Extra food safety regulations could be introduced in Canada as pressure increases to tackle the problems associated with tainted food after 20 people died in a listeriosis outbreak. Learn more at [*Food Quality News*](#).

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