



## Hort Headlines

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January 12, 2007

- **Committee Reviews Orchard Pesticide Practices** - This week the new House Select Committee on Environmental Health kicked-off the first week of the legislative session in Olympia with a work session on orchard pesticides. Lobbyists for organized labor and environmentalists are pushing lawmakers to adopt greater restrictions on the use of broad-spectrum pesticides. The WSHA Government Affairs program helped coordinate the industry's response at the committee work session. One of the highlights of the session was testimony presented by Mike Willett of the Northwest Horticultural Council. Willett outlined the tree fruit industry's lengthy and on-going commitment to the development and adoption of integrated pest management practices.
- **Pesticide Restrictions Top The Agenda** - Labor and environmental groups rolled out their priority list for legislators this week regarding tree fruit pesticide use. Aside from eliminating the use of organophosphate pesticides, lobbyists advocated for the passage of an air-monitoring program to capture and measure air particulates near orchards, greater enforcement and restrictions on pesticide drift near orchards, and a spray notification requirement for pesticide spraying near schools, hospitals and day care facilities. Watch Hort Headlines and Capitol View for more on this important legislative issue throughout the session.
- **Tree Fruit Support For WSU Ag Initiative** - The Senate Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Committee reviewed the \$10.8 million WSU Unified Ag Initiative during a committee session this week. The initiative will boost needed research capacity at WSU. The Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission's

executive manager Jim McFerson presented on behalf of the tree fruit industry, reinforcing how the added science and research will help the ag industry in its effort to remain competitive and viable.

- **Farm Labor Contractor Decision** - The Department of Labor and Industries has decided against initiating legislation this session to rewrite the Farm Labor Contractor statute. The agency's proposal would have made it more expensive and more difficult for employers and farm labor contractors to use guestworker programs. A WSHA legal analysis was a key tool in highlighting problems with the rewrite and eventually convincing the department to pull back the legislation. WSHA's government affairs program sponsored the legal analysis. In addition, WSHA coordinated with other commodity groups to inform agency staff and the governor's office of the problems created by the proposed rewrite.
- **Jim Clements Appointed** - Jim Clements, from Selah, joins the state Senate after serving 12 years in the House of Representatives. Yakima County commissioners unanimously appointed the just-retired Clements to succeed Alex Deccio of Yakima. Deccio retired after more than a generation in public life the end of December. In November, Clements must stand for election to complete the final year remaining in Deccio's four-year term. Clements was sworn into office in a private ceremony soon after he was appointed.
- **Tree Fruit Day Set For January 30** - WSHA's 5th Annual Tree Fruit Day is scheduled for Tuesday, January 30 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.
- **Multi-Peril Crop Insurance Program Dates** - Throughout the Pacific Northwest farm producers are becoming more familiar with risk management tools that insure farm revenue fluctuations. Adjusted Gross Revenue-Lite (AGR) and Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot (AGR) are based on producer's five-year historical tax form information and annual farm report to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period. Producers throughout the Pacific Northwest are reminded of regional sales closing dates for these and other Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) programs. For crop insurance agent information, visit [www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents](http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents)

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## Headline Links

**2007 Begins With Robust Apple Movement, Lower Holdings** - The U.S. apple industry is starting 2007 with fewer apples in storage and strong consumer demand keeping movement robust. Read more at the [Fruit Growers News](#).

**Black Rock Backers Left Red-Faced After Miscalculation** - Red-faced

supporters of the proposed Black Rock reservoir conceded Thursday they made a \$2 billion error in estimating power revenues from the huge reservoir. Visit the [\*Yakima Herald\*](#) for more on this story.

**Black Rock Revenue Will Offset Cost, Supporters Say** - Black Rock reservoir supporters used a homemade scale and wooden blocks to illustrate their point that planned developments, tourism and power generation would offset the proposed reservoir's \$4.2 billion price tag. Read more at the [\*Tri-City Herald\*](#).

**Sens. Feinstein And Craig Re-Introduce AgJOBS** - The campaign to solve growing labor shortages on many farms in the West renews today when U.S. Sens. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. and Larry Craig, R-Idaho re-introduce their AgJOBS legislation. Visit the [\*Capital Press\*](#) to learn more.

**Living Food: Potent Crops** - Foods grown organically or with minimal pesticides can be healthier for the consumer, the land and the water. Read more at the [\*Seattle PI\*](#).

**Sweet Cherry Symposium Scheduled** - A sweet cherry symposium will be held Jan. 25 at the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center in The Dalles , Ore. , hosted by the Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission and Oregon State University Extension. For more information visit the [\*Capital Press\*](#).

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