

January 16, 2009

- **LAST CALL: Tree Fruit Day Sign Up** – 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. There are still a few spots available, visit the WSHA web-site to download a [registration form](#). The final date for signup is extended to January 26th.
- **Beekeepers Are Urged To Document And Report Losses** – California's Department of Food and Agriculture does not track bee losses. The state's Department of Pesticide Regulation will conduct investigations of bee losses only if the beekeeper has requested an investigation. If a loss exceeds \$20,000 then the report is forwarded to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). A California bee specialist is requesting beekeepers to file losses with the county and the EPA. About 10 percent of California's bee colonies are killed or severely damaged each year. Only two reports of bee kills were filed in 2006 and none between 2003 and 2005.
- **Unacceptable Level Of Toxins Discovered By EPA In The Northwest** – Throughout the Northwest, the Environmental Protection Agency has found toxins at levels harmful to people, fish and wildlife. Thursday, northwest regional Administrator Elin Miller said bald eagles and ospreys have rebounded from the effects of DDT over the past 20 years, however mercury and flame retardants continue to increase in fish and wildlife. Hot spots include the Spokane River in Washington state, the Willamette River in Oregon, and the Lower Columbia between the two states. Despite an effort to cleanup over the past decade, pollutants such as fire retardants, mercury and compounds related to DDT are still at unacceptable levels in the Columbia Basin, which includes most of Oregon, Washington and Idaho.
- **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 insurance plans use producer's five-year tax information and annual farm report to provide a level of guaranteed revenue for the insurance period. February 2, is the final date to obtain or change AGR & AGR-Lite for existing policy holders. March 16, is the final date to enroll in a new AGR-Lite policy. For crop insurance agent information, visit www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents.
- **Aramark "Cool Caf" Fruit Program Entices Kids To Healthful Eating** – A new cafeteria format designed to increase fruit and vegetable

consumption and encourage healthy choices by children was introduced last fall to 16 elementary schools in seven states. This January, an additional 60 elementary schools in more than 16 states will be added to the program and another 300 are scheduled to install "Cool Caf" by the fall of 2009. The concept is designed to feature faster service and nutritious menus, including fruit and vegetable bars. "Cool Caf" resulted in a 50-percent increase in fruit and vegetable consumption at several of the initial 16 schools that started the program. The program has encouraged both students and staff to eat more nutritious food.

- **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. Nominations for Grower Positions in District 1 will also be held. 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)

Headline Links

Gregoire Unveils \$1.2B Stimulus Package – Gregoire also announced plans to dip into the state's \$4 billion unemployment insurance trust fund for some short-term relief, using \$400 million to boost unemployment benefits for laid-off workers and to cut unemployment insurance taxes for employers. Learn more at www.bizjournals.com.

Agriculture's Next Big Challenge – President-elect Barack Obama has chosen Iowa's former Gov. Tom Vilsack to be his secretary of agriculture. Learn more on this story from [the Chicago Tribune](http://thechicagotribune.com).

Officials Investigate Pesticide Exposure – It is described as the perfect storm for pesticide exposure. Read more at [the Capital Press](http://thecapitalpress.com).

Farming Study Aims To Aid Ag Industry – Food and agriculture were worth \$42 billion in Washington in 2007, making them among the state's largest employers. Read the following article at [the Tri-City Herald](http://thetricityherald.com).

Death Of Grant 'Tremendous Loss' For Agriculture – Rep. Bill Grant, D-Walla Walla, died Sunday, Jan. 3, of complications related to pneumonia, said Melinda McCrady, communications director of the House Democratic Caucus. Visit [the Capital Press](http://thecapitalpress.com) to learn more.

Apple Varieties Coming Soon From Washington Breeders – During the hospitality hour before the annual banquet, two important figures in the Washington horticulture industry offered a treat to visitors – an opportunity to taste promising new apples not yet released as varieties. Visit [*the Fruit Growers News*](#)