



Hort Headlines

January 30, 2009

- **Court Rules Pesticides Not Exempt From Water Act** – The 6th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled that pesticides must be regulated as pollutants under the Clean Water Act. The court threw out a ruling by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2007 that exempted pesticides. For nearly 30 years prior to that rule, pesticide labels had to state that the pesticide could not be "discharged into lakes, streams, ponds, or public waters unless in accordance with an NPDES permit." The court said that pesticide residues and biological pesticides constitute pollutants under federal law and therefore must be regulated in order to minimize the impact to human health and the environment.
- **Ag Committee New Faces** – Agriculture has lost three strong supporters in the Legislature in the past few months. Rep. Bill Grant (Walla Walla), the long-time chair of the House Democratic Caucus, died earlier this month. Rep. Steve Hailey (Mesa), a leader in the Cattlemen's Assn. and the Wheatgrowers Assn., passed away in December. Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen (Eatonville), a long-time dairy farmer, lost her bid for re-election. All three were strong members of the agriculture committees in their respective chambers; Rasmussen chaired the Senate Agriculture Committee. The new members in the Legislature will now be relying even more on the ag community for guidance during the 105-day legislative session. Read more at the [Capital Press](#).
- **COOL Rule Now On Hold** – The long-delayed mandatory COOL rule – country-of-origin labeling – was published on Jan. 15. However it faces a delay in the wake of President Obama's decision to suspend the implementation of pending

and last-minute regulations of the Bush Administration. The memorandum calls on agency heads to extend for 60 days the effective date of regulations that have already been published in the Federal Register but have not yet taken effect. This action means USDA's already-published final COOL rule will not be implemented until mid-March. According to published reports, on Jan. 26, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack expressed his strong support for the COOL rule.

- **Ag Safety Day Set For Yakima** – The fifth annual Agriculture Safety Day will be held Wednesday, February 25, at the Yakima Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program is designed for employers, supervisors, farmworkers and safety professionals. All sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. Topics to be discussed will include tractor and ladder safety, injury prevention, cross-cultural communication, conducting an accident investigation, and handling HR issues. The conference fee is \$50 at the door and includes a buffet lunch. To register online visit www.wagovconf.org. For more information please email Shannon at shannon@kfevents.com.
- **New I-9 Form Effective Monday** – Employers will be required to use the revised I-9 form for all new hires as well as re-verifying any employee with expiring employment authorization beginning February 2, 2009. As of February 2, 2009 the current edition of the Form I-9 dated 6/05/2007 will no longer be valid.
IMPORTANT NOTE: DO NOT use the new form until February 2, 2009 and DO NOT use the old form after February 2, 2009. For more information visit www.wsfb.com.
The new rule:
 - Requires that all documents presented during the verification process be unexpired;
 - Eliminates List A identity and employment authorization documentation Forms I-688, I-688A, and I-688B (*Temporary Resident Card and outdated Employment Authorization Cards*);
 - Adds foreign passports containing certain machine-readable immigrant visas to List A;
 - Adds valid passports to List A as evidence of identity and employment authorization for citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), along with Form I-94 or Form I-94A indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association Between the United States and the FSM or RMI.
- **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.

- **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)
- **Tree Fruit Day Next Tuesday** – WSHA staff members will be out of the office next Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday to host our 7th Annual Tree Fruit Day with members in Olympia . The WSHA office will resume regular business hours on Thursday.

Headline Links

New Guest Worker Rules Yet To Be Tested – Changes intended to streamline the controversial guest-worker program went into effect just days before Barack Obama took the oath of office as president. Learn more at www.bradenton.com.

No Codling Moth Disruptions So Far In Shipments To Taiwan – Washington fruit companies have passed the critical period of market-ruining codling moth discoveries in shipments of apples to Taiwan. Learn more on this story from [the Wenatchee World](#).

Legislators Hear Slate Of Ag-Related Bills – For agriculture, water is always a top priority, and this year legislators will be debating thorny issues that include the state's use-it-or-lose-it policy and stock watering. Read more at [the Capital Press](#).

Management Keeps Pests At Bay – Stone fruit growers need to manage resistance within a season and from year to year, according to Clive Kaiser, an Oregon State University Extension horticulturist in Umatilla County. Read the following article at [the Capital Press](#).

Cherry Growers Aim To Promote Through Downturn – The Washington State Fruit Commission had a rough year in 2008, but it debuted a plan to combat the downturn in the global economy at the 2009 Cherry Institute held in Yakima, Wash., on Jan. 16. Visit [the Capital Press](#) to learn more.

Frigid Temperatures Threaten Florida Crops – Seventy million citrus trees and tens of thousands of acres of fresh fruits and vegetables were in regions where temperatures remained below 30 degrees for several hours, according to the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. Visit [*the Fruit Growers News*](#) to read more.

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