



Hort Headlines

February 26, 2010

- **Cutting-Edge Lab Enlisted To Help Bees** – Project Apis m (PAm), a non-profit organization has enlisted the services of the DeRisi Lab in an effort to help solve Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD) which has been plaguing bees for sometime. The DeRisi Lab is famous for its cutting edge technology that discovered the human SARS virus and the Avian Bonavirus that had mysteriously killed parrots around the world. PAm has provided funding for the DeRisi Lab to collect weekly samples from a large migratory beekeeping operation. Results are expected by the end of this year.
- **Ag in Uncertain Times Webinar Series** – The popular interactive online webinar series "Ag in Uncertain Times" is offering three Spanish-language sessions for agricultural producers and other professionals. The first webinar "Financial Management and Access to Credit in Agriculture" will be presented on Wednesday, March 10. The second session "Business Planning and Market Strategies" will be held on Wednesday, March 17 and the final session "Strategies, Tools and Resources" will be held on Wednesday, March 24. All sessions begin at 4:00 p.m. and are limited to 500 seats. Pre-registration is not required. For more information visit <http://www.farmmanagement.org/aginuncertaintimes>.
- **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-L) and Adjusted Gross Revenue Pilot (AGR) are insurance plans that use producer's five-year tax information and annual farm reports to provide

guaranteed revenue for the insurance period. March 15, is the final date to enroll in a new AGR-Lite policy. For crop insurance agent information, visit www3.rma.usda.gov.

- **WSDA Hosts Free Pesticide Disposal Events** – The WSDA is hosting a free pesticide disposal event near Quincy on April 7 and Mattawa on April 8. Agricultural and commercial-grade pesticides accepted for disposal include insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, rodenticides and most chemicals that kill, repel or prevent unwanted pests. Customer sign up is required by March 5. To sign up, call toll free (360) 902-2056 or e-mail wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov. Visit the WSDA website at agr.wa.gov to learn more.
- **Farmland Preservation State Grants Available** – Applications are being accepted March 1 - May 3, 2010 for grants to protect farmland by the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Eligible farmland may include ranch land, irrigated or dry cropland. The grants are funded by the Legislature through the sale of general obligation bonds. For more information visit http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/grant_news.shtml#wwrp.
- **Ag Safety Day Set For Yakima** – The sixth annual Agriculture Safety Day will be held Wednesday, March 3, at the Yakima Convention Center from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 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 eye and ladder injury prevention, safety, communication issues in agriculture, ammonia safety and much more. The conference fee is \$65 at the door and includes a buffet lunch. To register online visit <http://www.wagovconf.org/files/AgSafetyDay.pdf>. For more information please email Shannon at registrar@kfevents.com
- **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.

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

- **March 4** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Part 1) Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
 - **March 11** | 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. (Part 2) Wenatchee Valley College Library Lyceum (2 credits)
- **Get Geared Up For Golf** – Time to start planning for the 17th Annual WSHA Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament that will take place Tuesday, August 3 at the Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course. This year's event is sure to be another

big success with tree fruit industry golfers playing to benefit student scholarships. Put your company name in the spotlight by becoming a tournament sponsor by emailing lynette@wahort.org to learn more.

Headline Links

Spring-Like Weather Raises Alarms With Growers – An early spring potentially expands the amount of time growers must spend fighting frost. Learn more on this story from [The Yakima Herald](#).

Washington Lawmakers Address Variety Of Ag Issues – Several ag-related policy bills are at varied stages of the legislative process. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

New Bills Address Environmental, Labor, Water Issues In California – Several agriculture-related bills, covering topics ranging from water transfers and environmental rules to labor, licensing and product pricing, were introduced in the California Legislature by the Feb. 19 filing deadline. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Shippers Adapt To Increased Air Security – The Pacific Northwest sweet cherry industry should not be adversely affected by an increase in security screening of cargo on passenger planes, an industry official says. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Tree Fruit Groups Lobby For Pesticide – A Pacific Northwest tree fruit group and California citrus groups are asking the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to allow continued use of a new pesticide while it is reregistered to comply with a court ruling. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Focus Of Farm Bureau Labor Meeting: Immigration Reform – With recent federal changes to immigration and labor policy, immigration reform was the hot topic during Thursday's 2010 Washington Farm Bureau Labor Conference. Learn more on this story from [The Wenatchee World](#).

Bees Struggling A Bit This Spring – Winter struck the Southeast hard, bringing much lower temperatures to Florida and Georgia, which is the staging site for many of the honeybees. Learn more on this story from www.goodfruit.com.



GRAS2P "Tip of the Week" - Inventory Control Sheets – Inventory control sheets for your chemical & fertilizer storage facilities need to be updated at least quarterly. Now is a great time to perform an inventory. It doesn't have to be detailed as in oz/ml, just record the number of bags, bottles, etc. A template of the Inventory Control Sheet is in your GRAS2P Guidance Manual (Yellow Forms Tab; Page 45 of 61). This is part of Global G.A.P. (CB8.7.14).

GRAS2P Web-Site – [*web-site*](#).

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