



Hort Headlines

March 13, 2009

- **U.S. Department of Labor Announced Proposed Suspension of H-2A Rule** – Today the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) announced the proposed suspension for nine months of a final rule to the implementing of the H-2A program. The H-2A program allows U.S. agricultural businesses to employ foreign workers in temporary or season agricultural jobs when there are not enough domestic workers. The department's proposed action is open for 10 days to public comments. On March 17, the proposed suspension of the final rule will appear in the Federal Register. December 18, 2008 the final rule appeared in the Federal Register, and took effect on Jan. 17, 2009. Any final action on the proposed suspension will appear in a future Federal Register notice.
- **Pest Management Workshops In Spanish** – WSU Chelan County Extension will be providing a Pest Management Workshop in Spanish on March 17, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Wenatchee Valley College Lyceum. The workshop will cover "Competitive Orchard Systems," "Pest Management Transition Project," and "Understanding and Management of Fireblight." Two recertification credits will be earned for this workshop. For more information contact Esteban Gutierrez at (509) 667-6665 or email este@wsu.edu.
- **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. 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.

- **Find Out How Cold It Will Be In Your Area** – Fruit growers can get detailed information on frost conditions online at www.clearwest.com and beginning in mid-March available from a telephone recording for the Yakima, Wenatchee, Okanogan, and Basin Districts. Forecasts will run through May 31.
- **Get Geared Up For Golf** – Time to start planning for the 16th Annual WSHA Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament that will take place Tuesday, August 11 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 contacting Lynette at the WSHA office at 509-665-9641 to learn more.
- **WSHA New Web-Site** – WSHA is proud to announce the launch of our newly re-designed web-site. Check out the new [WSHA Website](#) and remember to add it to your favorites! You will also find information on the 2009 Annual Meeting, Trade Show and Golf Tournament. Current and new members will need to register to access the member's only section.

Headline Links

Pheromone-Based Approaches To Managing Pests – An estimated 500,000 acres worldwide, including nearly 175,000 acres in North America, are treated with pheromone to control codling moth (CM). Learn more at [the Fruit Growers News](#).

Organic Apples Face Market Test This Year – Washington-grown organic apples have been coming to market at a rate of increase of about 30 percent a year. Learn more on this story from [the Fruit Growers News](#).

Language, Laws A Challenge For Indigenous Migrants – When immigration agents arrested 16 farmworkers in a mass arrest of illegal immigrants early this year, legal advocates raced to find interpreters for the men, who spoke only a language called Mixtec. Read more at [the Capital Press](#).

Ag Strikes At Employee Free Choice Act – A coalition of California-based agriculture organizations is opposing federal "card check" legislation, a measure that would allow workers to vote to unionize simply by signing a card or petition and eliminate an employer's right to demand a secret ballot. Read the following article at [the Capital Press](#).