



Hort Headlines

April 10, 2009

- **NEW I-9 Form Effective April 3, 2009** – The revised I-9 form became effective on April 3, 2009 and is to be used for all "new" hires and/or for re-verification purposes that occur on or after April 3, 2009. The new required form has a revision date in the lower right corner of 2/2/09 – throw out ALL earlier forms. To access the new form and instructions visit www.uscis.gov. To obtain a hard copy of the new I-9 contact U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) at (800) 870-3676. The new form eliminates some eligibility documents, adds certain foreign passports to list "A" and no longer accepts expired documents.
- **IMPORTANT: Apple Pest Management Practices Survey** – Many apple growers recently received an Apple Pest Management Practices Survey in the mail. The WSU Pest Management Transition Project organized the survey. Information gleaned from the survey results will be important in identifying industry needs for education and will help guide future pesticide regulations. If you received a survey please take the time to fill it out and return it to the location on the return envelope. Without FULL industry participation the value of the survey will be greatly diminished. The information will be used to support the industry and will be shared with the industry when results are compiled. Contact Nadine Lehrer, nlehrer@wsu.edu or call 509-663-8181 x267
- **Growers Invited To Ag/Agency Conference Call** – During Tree Fruit Day, we met with Employment Security Department Commissioner Karen Lee who invited all WSHA members to join her and other state agencies for the quarterly "grower/agency" conference call. These calls are an excellent forum for growers

and agencies to communicate and share current information on important topics like housing, H-2A, crop condition, and labor supply to name a few. The next call will be on April 30th from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Please email Mark Streuli at MStreuli@esd.wa.gov, or Lynette Smith lynette@wahort.org to receive the call in number and access code.

- **2009 WSU Fruit School** – Washington State University's annual tree fruit quality school will be held Tuesday, May 19, in Ellensburg. This one day education program helps to inform tree fruit industry personnel of important research associated with the preservation of tree fruit quality. The focus of the conference will be to learn how to optimize fruit quality from harvest through storage and packing. For more details or registration visit <http://postharvest.tfrec.wsu.edu/>.
- **WSU Online Certificate In Organic Ag Offers New Courses** – On April 13, registration begins for the next series of courses in Washington State University's online certificate in organic agriculture. The program has added new courses and leadership. Admission to WSU is required to enroll. For more information visit www.online.wsu.edu or call (800) 222-4978.
- **Tee Off For Student Scholarships – Date Correction:** The 16th Annual WSHA Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament will be held on **Tuesday, August 4, 2009** at the Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course. Link to the WSHA web-site and download a WSHA Golf Tournament Registration form today. This year's event is sure to be another big success with tree fruit industry golfers playing to benefit student scholarships in the name (and memory) of past tree fruit industry leaders. Put your company name in the spotlight by becoming a tournament sponsor by contacting Lynette at lynette@wahort.org to learn more.
- **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.

Headline Links

Washington Organic Acreage, Sales Continue to Grow – The number of certified organic farms in Washington state increased by 10 percent and certified acreage increased by an estimated 18 percent between 2007 and 2008. Read more at cahenews.wsu.edu.

Industry Seeks Mexican Tariff Resolution – U.S. exporters whose products face new Mexican tariffs pin their hopes for a resolution to a trade dispute on President Obama's mid-April visit to Mexico. Learn more on this story from [the Packer](#).

Robocom Adds Voice Picking To Labor Management – Robocom Systems International is offering a voice-based warehouse picking system it says can add productivity, accuracy and traceability to a company's warehouse and distribution operation. Learn more on this story from [the Packer](#).

Farmers To Washington: We Need Guest Workers – The construction downturn has been a boon to farmers, as migrant workers in the region trade in their hammers for hoes. But local growers are concerned that U.S. immigration reform could eventually drain the labor pool -- leaving farmers in a bind. Read more at [the Times Review](#).

Shippers Testify Before House On Food Safety – Two fresh produce industry shippers told the House Agriculture Committee about industry food safety efforts, but both said help is needed from the government to provide oversight and equivalency between domestic produce and imports. Read the following article at [the Packer](#).

Pesticide Cleanup Takes 11 Years, \$3 Million – After 11 years and more than \$3 million, regulators say they're done with one of the Lower Valley's largest environmental cleanup jobs. Read the following article at [the Yakima-Herald](#).

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