



Hort Headlines

April 17, 2009

- **Survey Approved For Apple Maggot** – A new survey to establish the best control methods for the apple maggot is currently in the works for Washington state's second-biggest export which is apples. Senate Bill 5765 would provide \$150,000 from the Fruits and Vegetable Inspection Account to aid in the control of apple maggots. The bill was voted on by the state House general government appropriations committee. Assessments from the produce industry fund the account. The first detection of the apple maggot was in the Pacific Northwest in 1979.
- **Across The West Organic Acreage Continues To Increase** – According to a recently released annual report from the Washington State University Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, organic agriculture continues to rise in Washington state. Since 2003, the amount of certified acreage in the state has increased by 183 percent. In 2008 profile estimates were a total of 96,139 acres of certified organic land statewide, up 18 percent from 81,472 acres in 2007. Gross farmgate sales from organic production increased in 2006 by 48 percent from \$144 million to more than \$213 million in 2007.
- **Pollination Fees Jump In The Northwest** – In 2008, pollination fees for Northwest honeybee hives continued to climb in part to the California almond industry. According to officials, the average rental rate for a colony of bees in the Northwest was \$81.15 in 2008, up almost 15 percent from the previous year. Average rates have jumped a little over 250 percent in the last 10 years. Average pollination fees have increased by 440 percent during the past 19 years. The

largest money earners for beekeepers next to almonds; Northwest tree fruit crops with apples accounting for approximately 20 percent of all rentals and 11 percent of reported income. Seventy percent of the state's organic acreage is planted in three crop categories, one of which is tree fruit.

- **State Unemployment Expected To Get Worse** – According to the latest reports, unemployment took its third huge jump in a row in March, reaching 9.2 percent – a level previously reached in May of 1984. Unemployment in Oregon soared to 12.1 percent last month, tying the state's record which was set at the peak of the recession from the early 1980s. State forecasters say unemployment will likely get worse before it improves. The official state forecast is for unemployment to peak at 10 percent during the first three months of 2010 and then level out.
- **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/>.
- **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

Secretary Tom Vilsack Announces Staff Appointments at U.S. Department of Agriculture – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack today announced 14 appointments to key staff positions in the U.S. Department of Agriculture at Washington, D.C. Read more at www.usda.gov.

House Passes Cap And Trade 'Lite' – A controversial climate-change bill passed the Washington state House of Representatives Wednesday, April 15, with a 59-37 vote - but without many of the provisions that would have hurt rural communities. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

Immigration Issues Set To Rise Again – A breakthrough agreement by the nation's top labor groups could give traction to immigration reform later this year, one leading agricultural lobbyist said. Learn more on this story from [*the Packer*](#).

Undocumented Residents In U.S. Levels, Study Says – The number of undocumented immigrants living in Washington and across the United States stabilized over the past several years following steady increases for about 15 years before that, the Pew Hispanic Center reported Tuesday. Read more at [*the News Tribune*](#).

Small Apples To Stay Cheap, Large Sizes Could Go Up – A glut of small Washington apples has shrunk prices for 100s and smaller, while steady movement of a dwindling supply of large apples could send markets for 88s and larger up. Read the following article at [*the Packer*](#).

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