



Hort Headlines

April 30, 2010

- **Orchardists In Washington State Need Auditors Familiar With Tree Fruit And Orchard Practices** – For those interested in becoming auditors for the tree fruit industry through GRAS2P, scholarships are available from WSHA to pay for tuition. You can satisfy 3 of the Global G.A.P. lead auditor pre-requisites by attending these upcoming training workshops: HACCP and Food Handler Training on May 3-4 and Auditor (Global G.A.P.) Training on May 24-28. For more details [download the flyer](#) or to sign-up, contact Nicole Brunner at 509-665-9641 x302 or nicole@wahort.org.
- **Essential Training Seminar: Hiring Seasonal Workers** – The federal department of labor (DOL) has begun inspections of farmers who hire seasonal workers. Inspectors are targeting farmers in the Pasco and Columbia Basin area starting May 3. The Farm Bureau will be conducting a series of seminars during the week of May 3rd in an effort to assist employers who plan on hiring seasonal workers. The training will be offered in 8 locations throughout the state. Federal and state agencies are ramping up inspections on employers that hire seasonal workers. If you unaware of the special requirements for hiring seasonal workers, you should plan to attend these seminars. To register visit <http://www.wsfb.com/>. You must pre-register to attend. **Registration closes at 3:00 p.m., this Friday, April 30.**
- **Upcoming Cherry Workshops** – Cherry workshops have been scheduled for the first week of May. The workshops are a source of practical, operational information for the Japan fumigation and non fumigation programs and the Australia preclearance program. For more information contact Fred Scarlett at 509-576-8004. The scheduled workshops will be held:

Tuesday, May 4 Wenatchee at the Washington Apple Commission

Wednesday, May 5 Yakima at the Washington State Fruit Commission

Thursday, May 6 The Dalles at Orchard View Farms

- **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.
- **Find Out How Cold It Will Be In Your Area** – Fruit growers can get detailed information on frost conditions online at www.clearwest.com or 1-888-982-1501. Forecasts will run through May 31.
- **Apple Blossom Festival Kicks Off** – The 91st Annual Washington State Apple Blossom Festival has officially opened and will run through Sunday, May 2. One of the highlights of the festival is Stemilt Growers Grand Parade which will take place Saturday, May 1 at 11 a.m. Connect to the festival's web-site at www.appleblossom.org for a complete listing of events.

Headline Links

Proposed Changes To Food Safety Bill Could Open 'Loopholes' – Consumer and public health coalition is urging a US Senator to reconsider exemptions proposed for the Food Safety Modernization Act as they would create a 'loophole' in safety regulations. Learn more on this story from [The Food Navigator](#).

Sizing Up Arizona's Controversial New Immigration Law – On Friday, Arizona's governor signed the toughest anti-immigration law in the nation, which is set to go into effect by the end of July. Learn more on this story from yahoo.com.

Court Forces Reregistration Of Pesticide – The Environmental Protection Agency will allow continued use of a new pesticide while it is being reregistered to comply with a court ruling, but supplies likely will run out before that happens. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Group Touts Produce As Low-Sodium Option – As government-imposed restrictions on sodium in packaged foods may loom, a produce organization is touting fruits and vegetables as a way to cut down on salt. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Demand For Trucks Boosts Prices – Shippers aren't reporting major problems so far this spring, but the competition for trucks is likely to grow fiercer as fruit and vegetable crops from across the Northwest reach maturity, Gilliland said. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).



GRAS2P – [web-site](#).