



## Hort Headlines

---

May 15, 2009

- **\$50 Million In EQIP Grants Available For Transition To Organic** – In an effort to aid farmers and ranchers transition to organic production the USDA will provide \$50 million for a new initiative that will meet the Obama administration's promise encouraging more organic agriculture production through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Under the initiative, required minimum core conservation practices will be determined by precise resource concerns. Those practices are conservation crop rotation, cover crops, nutrient management, pest management prescribed grazing and forage harvest management. Applications received from organic producers or producers in transition to organic farming will be accepted between May 11 and May 29th. For more information on the 2009 EQIP Organic Initiative visit [www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/)
- **Heat-Related Illness Training Courses** – The state Dept. of Labor & Industries (L&I) has scheduled a workshop covering the requirements of the new Outdoor Heat Exposure rule as well as a sample employee/supervisor training program. The workshop is for company owners, managers, supervisors, foremen, and safety and health professionals of any business whose work involves employee exposure to outdoor heat between May 1st and September 30th of each year. Please register in advance to ensure your place at the session you choose. Space is limited. Call 1-800-574-2829 or register online at [www.lni.wa.gov](http://www.lni.wa.gov) Upcoming Training: Kennewick June 1, from 1 – 3:30 p.m.

- **(Cancelled) Pest Management Workshops In Spanish** – House was sponsoring a WSDA Pesticide Hands-On Training session for applicators, in Spanish. The course has been "Cancelled". Contact (509) 662-6181 for more information or email [vhartnett@waclearinghouse.org](mailto:vhartnett@waclearinghouse.org)
- **Upcoming Export Course Offered** – Members of the tree fruit industry are encouraged by David Mudd of the Washington State Department of Agriculture to participate in a course titled "Exporting in the Flat World: An Intensive 3-Day Trade Certificate Course.". The course will be offered in Moses Lake from June 9 – 11th. To register visit [www.wsfdc.org/training-calendar](http://www.wsfdc.org/training-calendar)
- **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** – 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](mailto:lynette@wahort.org) to learn more.

---

## Headline Links

**Interim Guidance For Employers For Protection Of Migrant And Seasonal Farm Workers From The Novel H1N1 Flu Virus (Swine Flu).** – Read more from the Department of Health at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)

**Scientists Zero In On Bee Killers** – Ron Spears, a California beekeeper, says he's breathing easier about his hives this year because the threat of honeybee extinction may be subsiding. Read more at [the National Post](#).

**Most Orchards Escape Overnight Freeze** – Most of North Central Washington's farmland didn't get the sub-freezing temperatures the National Weather Service warned could come early this morning. Learn more on this story from [the Wenatchee World](#).

**Growers Optimistic About Cherry Crop** – Optimism abounds as growers anticipate the 2009 Northwest cherry crop. Learn more on this story from [the Yakima-Herald](#).

**Obama Administration Reviews Salmon Strategy** – The Obama administration is reviewing a Bush administration plan for balancing the needs of people and salmon in the Pacific Northwest's Columbia River Basin — a plan that has been criticized by a federal judge as doing too little to help salmon. Read more at [www.cbsnews.com](http://www.cbsnews.com).

**Franklin County Migrant Housing Help In Works** – A housing facility for seasonal farmworkers proposed southwest of Basin City is getting closer to reality, but some neighbors are wary of the project. Read the following article at [the Tri-City Herald](#).

**FDA Seeks Hefty User Fees For Food Safety** – New user fees on fresh produce shippers and fresh-cut processors are part of the Obama administration's plan to fund what is being termed a historic increase in the proposed budget for the Food and Drug Administration. Read the following article at [the Packer](#).

---

Washington State Horticultural Association  
PO Box 136 Wenatchee, WA 98807  
Phone (509) 665-9641 Fax (509) 665-8541  
Web-site [www.wahort.org](http://www.wahort.org)