



Hort Headlines

May 28, 2010

- **Conservation Stewardship Program** – Recently, agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that producers nationwide are invited to apply for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Producers may be able to receive up to \$40,000 per year throughout the five-year contract based on willingness to implement additional stewardship enhancements, and the size of their operations. The deadline to be considered for the next ranking and funding period is June 11, 2010. You can find this information on the [NRCS national site](#) or contact your local USDA Service Center office today to learn more. View the [invitation for more details](#).
- **Training Seminar: Leadership In The Workplace** – The Washington Farm Bureau will be holding a Webinar on Conflict Management, June 1 that focuses on how to effectively manage conflict. It explains how conflict can be a good thing and how to use it for positive results. It also shares information on how to handle situations that turn negative. There are five webinars in all. To register visit www.wsfb.com.
- **Audit Harmonization Seeking Your Input** – The Harmonization Technical Working Group recently completed the first draft of the harmonized standard. A blog spot is available on the United Fresh Website, where you and your colleagues can begin commenting and discussing the first draft of the harmonized standard. The blog has links to the draft standard, the Technical Working Group website, a United Fresh press release on the completion of the first draft, and news about upcoming meetings. Comments posted to the blog will be tracked and discussed at upcoming meetings. To register for the blog visit www.unitedfresh.org.

- **FDA Extends Comment Period** – The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is extending to July 23, 2010, the comment period for a notice that appeared in the Federal Register of February 23, 2010 (75 FR 8086). In that notice, FDA established a docket to obtain comments and information about current practices and conditions for the production and packing of fresh produce. The agency is extending this comment period to give interested parties additional time to provide the information requested by FDA in that notice. Comments need to be submitted by July 23, 2010. Send electronic submissions to www.regulations.gov or send written comments to the Division of Dockets Management (HFA-305), Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, rm. 1061, Rockville, MD 20852. NOTE: It is not necessary to respond to all of the questions; you may answer only those most relevant to your business and/or the ones most important to you.
 - **Seasonal Housing Available In Malaga Area** – Mid June in Malaga, WA The Washington Growers League Sage Bluff seasonal housing facility is opening an additional 144 beds. Those interested in reserving beds should contact Jesse Lane at (509) 670-3032; or the resident manager Rosie Banda at (509) 664-5050. Rent is \$9 per bed per night.
 - **NW Hort Expo** – Participating as an exhibitor at the NW Hort Expo is one of the best ways to share with visitors about up-and-coming technologies and new products. If you have not received information about the upcoming NW Hort Expo or booked space for your booth please contact Angie Fiscus at (509) 728-0010 or email nwhort@gmail.com. The NW Hort Show is held in conjunction with the 106th WSHA Annual Meeting.
 - **Tee Off For Student Scholarships** – Teams are filling up fast this year for our 17th Annual WSHA Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament that will be held on Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at the Lake Chelan Municipal Golf Course. Sign up today to guarantee your spot! 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@wahort.org to learn more.
 - **Seeking Raffle Item Donations** – The Washington State Horticultural Association's 17th Annual Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament is set for Tuesday, August 3rd in sunny Chelan, Washington. We are currently seeking raffle item donations which help raise money for our scholarship fund. All proceeds from the tournament support scholarships that are awarded to students in honor of past tree fruit industry leaders. Over the past sixteen years, the tournament has raised over \$118,319 for student scholarships. If you would like to participate by donating a raffle item please e-mail lynette@wahort.org.
 - **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.
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Headline Links

Growers Worry About Restrictions Due To Grapevine Moth Quarantine – Believing their harvests will be impacted by quarantine zone set up to corral a serious grape pest, Fresno area grape and tree fruit growers packed a meeting on May 19 to find answers. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Feared Pest Descends On Golden State – Just as entomologists have been warning West Coast growers all winter, Spotted Wing Drosophila (SWD) is starting to damage small fruits, especially California cherries. Learn more on this story from [Growing Produce](#).

Southern Apple Growers Face Reduced Crop – This year has produced an interesting thinning season like none ever seen before, with severe over-thinning of some cultivars, and even a total loss of the crop where no thinners were used in some instances. Learn more on this story from [Growing Produce](#).

Columbia Basin College's Ag Program Grows Again – A Pasco, Wash., community college is looking for new partnerships with the agriculture industry as it educates future farmers. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Pears, Cherries Included In Trade Talks – Trade talks between the United States and China may someday result in U.S. pears getting into China and Chinese cherries coming to the U.S. Learn more on this story from [The Capital Press](#).

Produce Traceability Initiative Action Plan Restatement May 2010 – In the three years since we organized a steering committee of industry leaders to evaluate the need and potential methods to implement whole-chain traceability, our industry has made tremendous progress in strengthening traceability across our industry. Download the [Produce Traceability Article](#).



GRAS2P "Tip of the Week" - Pre-Harvest Preparations: Traceability Bin tickets allow traceability back to farm and picker and, when appropriate, to the block for production records. This is part of Global G.A.P. (CB1.1) and USDA GAP (2-21).

GRAS2P Web-Site – [web-site](#).

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