



Hort Headlines

May 28, 2009

- **Food Safety & Sustainability Pilot Program Begins: GRAS2P** – WSHA was recently awarded two grants to initiate a pilot program that will assist growers in becoming audit ready in both food safety and sustainability (crop protection, soil management, and water management). The GRAS2P pilot program is designed for 200 growers along with a "coach" from their sponsoring warehouse to be prepared for their choice of a domestic food safety program or export food safety program as well as sustainability. Upon completion of the pilot program, participating growers will be ready to pass any of the major audits (or have an action plan in place to get them prepared). Given the need to have a minimum of three months of documented food safety practices, the pilot is best suited for apple and pear growers for the 2009 season or cherry/stone fruit growers who want to get a head start on the 2010 season. For more information, please contact the WSHA Office at 509.665.9641 or gras2p@wahort.org.
- **2009 Snowpack Varies Throughout Washington State** – Washington's Natural Resources Conservation Service announced in April stream flow outlook based on the March 2009 snowpack numbers. The report said that Washington state for the most part is looking alright with some areas gearing up for less water and other areas are in good shape. The conservation service also reported when all basins were averaged together statewide the snowpack was approximately 99 percent of normal. Typically from April through September the stream flow forecasts in the western part of the state are generally above average, in the eastern part of the state above average and in the central region below average. The southeast corner of Washington received the best snowpack precipitation.

- **Deadline Extended For USDA Organic Funding** – The deadline for a piece of the \$50 million Organic Initiative funding to assist growers who are looking to transition to organic has been moved from May 29 to June 12, providing growers a few more weeks to apply. Each state can make the decision whether to use the extended deadline. For more information visit www.nrcs.usda.gov.
- **Organic Summit Annual Event** – Leaders from organic and conventional food companies will gather in a forum at the Organic Summit Annual event June 3 – 5 at the Skamania Lodge in Stevenson, WA. Featured speakers are Nell Newman, Newman's Own Organics and Bob Scowcroft from Organic Farming Research Foundation. Workshops, panel discussions and roundtable formats will provide a wide range of topics, including strides organic research made in the 2008 Farm Bill. To sign up or learn more visit www.theorganicsummit.com or call (866) 458-4935.
- **WSU Sprayer Technology Field Days/Calibration Services** – WSU Sprayer Technology Field Days/Calibration Services will be held May 28-June 19. This is for orchardists who are wishing to improve deposition within the orchard/vineyard canopy while reducing drift can save money and provide better pest control. Participants should include any tree fruit or grape grower who uses an airblast or tower sprayer. This machine will not work with over-the-row or electrostatic sprayers. For more information or to reserve a time visit WSU.
- **Orchard Pest Management Field Day Scheduled** – Tree fruit producers, pesticide applicators, and field representatives are encouraged to attend one of the orchard pest management field days. The field days will provide revolving stations with active demonstrations or exhibits and experts on hand to answer questions about IPM strategies; monitoring techniques and tools; identification and monitoring of natural enemies and sprayer efficiency. The field days are sponsored by the PMTP, a joint project between WSU and the WSU Fruit Industry. For additional information and maps click on <http://pmtp.wsu.edu/tours.html>, email pmtp.info@wsu.edu or call the WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center at (509) 663-8181. Field days are scheduled for:
 - Brewster - June 3, beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Gebbers Farms
 - Quincy - June 10, beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Double S. Orchards
 - Wapato - June 12, beginning at 3:00 p.m. at Marquez Farms
- **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

- **Effective May 1, Outdoor Heat Exposure Rule** – Employers need to remember to address their outdoor heat exposure safety program in their written Accident Prevention Program during training with employees on the heat exposure rule and how to respond to symptoms. Register for a heat-related illness and training course by calling 1-800-574-2829 or online at <http://www.lni.wa.gov>. **The next training session will be held in Kennewick June 1, from 1 – 3:30 p.m.**
- **Tee Off For Student Scholarships** – Teams are filling up fast this year for our 16th Annual WSHA Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament that 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.

Headline Links

Labor Department Suspends New H-2A Rule – It's back to the old rules for H-2A employers. Read more at [the Fruit Growers News](#).

Northwest Cherries Already Generating Industry Excitement – Cherry growers and shippers in the Pacific Northwest are starting to exhale as they prepare to move into production for this season's crop. Learn more on this story from [the Produce News](#).

Bee Detective Seeks An Elusive Killer – Oregon State University's new apiculture researcher, Ramesh Sagili, has literally had his career shaped by one massive honeybee die-off after another. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

California Stone Fruit Industry Makes Changes In Quest For Profitability – Growers of California stone fruit, including white-flesh peaches and nectarines, have suffered hard times in recent years as production costs continue to rise and market prices have stagnated or declined. Read more at [the Produce News](#).

New FDA Chiefs Stress Science, Better Food Safety – The huge salmonella outbreak from peanut butter represented a failure of the Food and Drug Administration, that agency's new chiefs declared Tuesday — one they hope to fix. Read the following article at google.com.

Ag-Related Bills Signed – Agriculture fared well during the recent legislative

session in large part because most lawmakers on both sides of the aisle know how important the industry is, said Sen. Brian Hatfield, chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Committee. Read the following article at [*the Capital Press*](#).

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