



Hort Headlines

June 25, 2010

- **Rural America Solutions Group Co-Chairs Call for Committee Hearings on Federal Power Grab of Clean Water Act** – This week, Co-Chairs of the Rural America Solutions Group Frank Lucas (R-OK), Sam Graves (R-MO) and Doc Hastings (R-WA) sent a letter to Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar, Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson, Small Business Committee Chairwoman Nydia Velazquez and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Nick Rahall asking for hearings on H.R. 5088, America's Commitment to Clean Water Act. This bill greatly expands the scope of the Clean Water Act by removing the word "navigable" from its current definition. As a result, every body of water – from farmers' irrigation canals, to streams, small ponds and backyard muddle-puddles – could suddenly be subjected to sweeping new federal regulations and permitting. This vast expansion of government authority would threaten jobs, increase costs for farmers and small businesses, and impact local water storage and delivery systems. Read the letter [click here](#).
- **Save The Date: 2nd Annual Sunrise Research** – The WSU-TFREC will be holding the 2nd Annual Sunrise Research Orchard Field Day on July 29, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. (lunch included). This is a great opportunity to interact with WSU researchers and Extension faculty including researchers from other institutions on a variety of topics such as mechanized blossom thinning and week seeker technologies and a natural fumigant replant disease trial. For additional information visit www.tfrec.wsu.edu/ or contact Jay Brunner at jfb@wsu.edu or 509-670-1473.

- **Endangered Listing For Bumblebee Sought By Group** – A conservation group from Southern Oregon and Northern California wants to add a bumblebee to the endangered species list. This week the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation and University of California at Davis entomologist Robbin Thorp formally petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to protect Franklin's bumblebee under the Endangered Species Act. Scott Black from the Xerces Society said the petition is part of an effort to reverse the decline of bumblebees and other native bees nationwide. Bees pollinate approximately 15 percent of all crops grown in the nation, worth \$3 billion. Thorp's surveys for the Franklin's bumblebee have shown a dramatic decline in numbers since 1998 with none seen since 2003.
- **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.
- **NRCS EQIP Sign Up Deadline Almost Here** – Growers interested in participating in EQIP, must have their completed EQIP application submitted to an NRCS office by August 13th, 2010. EQIP can provide growers with cost sharing and technical support opportunities for things such as: construction of a pesticide storage building and mixing pad, pest management, nutrient management, changing of irrigation systems, planting of beneficial species habitat, windbreaks, and more. If you are interested contact your local NRCS office, Wenatchee Office: 509-664-9370, Okanogan: 509-422-2750, Waterville: 509-745-8561, Ephrata: 509-754-3023. Visit the website for more information: www.wa.nrcs.usda.gov.
- **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.

Headline Links

Proposals May Limit Young Farmworkers – Labor crackdown could exclude teens from traditional jobs. Learn more on this story from readingeagle.com, read an article from the [Capital Press](#).

SPIN METER: Defining 'Border Security' – You wouldn't know it from the public debate, but the U.S.-Mexico border is more fortified now than it was even five years ago. Read more at The Capital Press.

Australian Honeybees Suspected In Hive Losses – Disease-carrying honeybees imported from Australia may be responsible for a mysterious disorder that's decimated bee hives around the country, and federal regulators say they'd consider import restrictions if necessary. Read more about this story at [*The Tri-City Herald*](#).

Cherries Light For Fourth – The Pacific Northwest is producing cherries, but not quite the volume the industry would like heading into the Fourth of July, traditionally its top sales time. Learn more on this story from [*The Capital Press*](#).

Crunch Pak Acquires Stemilt's Fresh-Cut – Fresh-cut apple company Crunch Pak is taking over Stemilt Growers Inc.'s sliced apple business, discontinuing Stemilt's AppleSweets product line. Learn more on this story from [*The Packer*](#).

E.W. Brandt Debuts Clamshell For Donut Peaches, Nectarines – E. W. Brandt & Sons Inc. may have met the packaging challenge for the easily bruised donut varieties of peaches and nectarines. Learn more on this story from [*The Packer*](#).



GRAS2P "Tip of the Week" - Safety Communication - Emergency Information can be posted on the bulleting board, at the office, and/or in the orchard shop. This information can include: instructions to call 911, name and contact number for orchard manager/owner, location of nearest phone, physical address of orchard site, name and phone number of nearest medical facility, and location of emergency shut-off's (electricity, gas, water). This is part of GlobalG.A.P. (AF3.3.1) and USDA GAP (P-2).

GRAS2P Web-Site – [*web-site*](#).

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