



Hort Headlines


July 2, 2010

- **Governor Gregoire Begins Eastern Washington Tour** – Gov. Chris Gregoire made the Walla Walla area her first stop as she began a two-day tour of Eastern Washington on Thursday. Joining Gregoire on the tour will be Ecology Director Ted Sturdevant, Department of Agriculture Director Dan Newhouse and Commerce Director Rogers Weed. Other stops on the tour will include the Red Mountain wine region near the Tri-Cities, a meeting with the Yakima River Basin water enhancement work group and a tour of the Irving Newhouse & Sons 600-acre farm near Sunnyside. Final stops will be in Brewster for a visit to Gebbers Farm, one of the state's leading fruit growers and processors, and in Odessa to tour Inland Empire Oilseeds.
- **Tree Assistance Program (TAP) With USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)** – Orchardists and nursery tree growers can apply for benefits under the Tree Assistance Program (TAP) with USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA). Sign-up ends on July 6, 2010. This program pays growers for replanting or rehabilitating trees, bushes and vines damaged or destroyed by natural disasters (weather related conditions), in excess of 15% plus normal mortality. Eligible losses include those suffered in 2008, 2009 & 2010. For more information on eligibility in the new TAP program, please contact your local county USDA-FSA office or visit the website at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov>
- **New Director Of WSU's Center For Precision Agricultural Systems** – Qin Zhang, a professor in the Department of Biological Systems Engineering and a senior scientist in agricultural automation, is the new director of Washington State University's Center for Precision Agricultural Systems headquartered in Prosser. Zhang, has served as assistant

director of CPAS for the past year, and assumed his new responsibilities on July 1. His current research focuses on the development and implementation of automated technologies for specialty crops production.

- **Upcoming Farm Bureau Education And Training –**
 - **Get the latest about the Federal I-9 Audits** on Tuesday, July 13 from 11:00 a.m. – Noon or 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 pm. This webinar includes a review of the common I-9 errors, I-9 audits, results, who is audited, 10 top questions and an informative question and answer session.
 - **The Family Farm Exemption to the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act Webinar** - The Farm Bureau will be conducting a webinar on Tuesday, July 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. You will learn about Family Farm Exemption to MSPA. You will also receive updates on DOL audits, helpful hints about preparing for these inspections and an opportunity to get your questions answered. For more information and registration on these training sessions visit <http://www.wsfb.com/educationtraining>

- **Have You Renewed Your WSHA Membership** – WSHA membership invoices have been mailed out to all members. If you have not yet received your invoice please email Nicole Bruner at nicole@wahort.org. Remember, it is important to renew your WSHA membership promptly. Membership is *required* in order to register and attend the WSHA 106th Annual Meeting and NW Hort Expo that will take place this December 6, 7 & 8 in Yakima, Washington. Thank you in advance for your membership investment.

-  **Teams Are Filling Up Fast** – Golf for a great cause at the 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.

- **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.

- **Yakima Holiday Inn** – Located across the street from the Yakima Convention Center is a brand new hotel property **The Holiday Inn**. The WSHA rate for the 2010 Annual

Conference this December 6, 7 & 8, is \$85/single and \$99/double occupancy. There are plenty of rooms available. Guests do not need a special code to make their reservation, just request the "WA ST Horticultural Assn. block". Contact 509-494-7000 to book your reservation today! Located at 802 East Yakima Avenue, Yakima, Washington.

Headline Links

National Debt Soars To Highest Level Since WWII – The federal debt will represent 62% of the nation's economy by the end of this year, the highest percentage since just after World War II, according to a long-term budget outlook released today by the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office. Learn more on this story from [usa today.com](http://usa.today.com).

Now It's Official – Next Year's Shortfall Is \$3 Billion – After two years of budget troubles and with another enormous \$3 billion budget shortfall looming next year, Gov. Christine Gregoire Thursday announced an effort to strip state government down to its bare essentials. Read more at [washington statewire.com](http://washington.statewire.com).

Opposing Weather Patterns Slam West – As opposing weather patterns have been battling in the Pacific, the West -- and much of the country -- has borne the brunt of the artillery. Read more about this story at The Capital Press.

Response Expected Soon To Sweetango Lawsuit – Fourteen Minnesota growers and packers filed suit June 16, claiming they and their state's industry are damaged by the actions of their university, and they want the agreement be declared void. Learn more on this story from The Good Fruit Grower.

Northwest Fresh Pear Crop Estimates Released – Pear Bureau Northwest estimates that Washington and Oregon's 2010 pear harvest will be on par with the five-year average. Learn more on this story from www.growingproduce.com.

Obama, Activists To Push On Immigration Reform – President Obama is enlisting activists and labor leaders in a push for comprehensive immigration legislation that will showcase Republican opposition and include a speech by the president. Learn more on this story from The Tri-City Herald.

Report: Ag Research Too Focused On Food Production – The report broadly recommends that agriculture focus more study on the effects of popular farming practices that can improve sustainability, while at the same time integrating research from a broad range of disciplines and spending more on that broader study. Learn more on this story from The Capital Press.



Week" - Designated Eating Area - It's National Picnic Month. However, that does not include picnicking in parts of the orchard that still have fruit to be marketed. Be sure your employees and visitors eat in the designated area. If they eat in the orchard, make sure it is in a block that has already been harvested. Only the consumption of water is permitted in orchard blocks with fruit yet to be harvested. This is part of USDA GAP (G-11) and Global G.A.P. (FV5.2.4).

- **GRAS2P Audit Readiness Course For Global G.A.P** – WSHA/GRAS2P is pleased to offer an intensive audit readiness course for Global G.A.P. that will be held in Wenatchee on July 20th and Yakima on July 21st. This course is designed for growers, specialists, warehouse field staff, and food safety officers. For more details and information [download the flyer](#). To register contact Nicole Brunner at nicole@wahort.org. Registration is also available online at www.gras2p.com.
- **GRAS2P Offers Audit Readiness Course for USDA G.A.P.** – WSHA/GRAS2P is pleased to offer an intensive audit readiness course for USDA GAP will be held in Wenatchee on July 27th and Yakima on July 28th. This course is designed for growers, specialists, warehouse field staff, and food safety officers. For more details and information [download the flyer](#). To register contact Nicole Brunner at nicole@wahort.org. Registration is also available online at www.gras2p.com.

GRAS2P Web-Site – [web-site](#).

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