



Hort Headlines

July 24, 2009

- **July 26 New Employer Requirements Kick In** – Effective July 26, 2009 you will be required to provide a Foreign Worker Human Trafficking Disclosure form to all workers you hire that are not U.S. citizens and have arrived in Washington based on an offer of employment. For more information on the requirement visit www.leg.wa.gov. This form should be provided to any worker who fills out an I-9 form. View a [sample form](#) and the [instructions](#). For specific questions contact Dan Fazio with the Washington Farm Bureau at (360) 528-2917
- **REMINDER: Take Precautions To Avoid Heat Exposure** – With the hot weather we've been experiencing and more on the way, orchard supervisors are reminded to consider various work-flow strategies to prevent and guard against heat-related illnesses. It's important that employers train and protect employees who work outdoors in the heat. A key element during hot weather is to encourage your workforce to drink plenty of water or other acceptable beverages (non-caffeinated) as well as knowing the signs and symptoms of heat stress, pacing your work, taking breaks and wearing lightweight clothing. Heat related illness can result in serious medical conditions, including disability or death. For more information about preventing heat stress, visit the L&I Heat Stress prevention web site www.lni.wa.gov.
- **HAACP Training** – A two day HAACP Certification Training will be available to GRAS²P specialists and other interested tree fruit industry members. HAACP is a management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material

production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of finished product. The training will take place August 17-18, 2009 in Ellensburg. Dr. Richard Dougherty (Professor and Extension Food Science Specialist at WSU) will conduct the Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point training. A reduced registration fee is available for WSHA members. For more information and registration, please contact the WSHA office at 509.665.9641 x811 or email gras2p@wahort.org.

- **Growers Invited To Ag/Agency Conference Call** – During Tree Fruit Day, we met with Employment Security Department Commissioner Karen Lee who invited all WSHA members to join her and other state agencies for the quarterly "grower/agency" conference call. These calls are an excellent forum for growers and agencies to communicate and share current information on important topics like housing, H-2A, crop condition, and labor supply to name a few. The agenda for the conference call is: an update on cherry harvest, H-2A pilot program, information sharing from agencies and wage surveys. The call is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29 from 3 to 4 p.m. The call-in number is 1-866-699-3239. Please email Hilary Young at HYoung@esd.wa.gov or Lynette@wahort.org to receive the call in number and access code.



- **Golf For A Great Cause** – We only have a few spots left! Teams have filled 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. **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. Golfers will also have an opportunity for a shot at our **\$10,000 Hole-In-One shoot out prize** and some other great prizes on the par 3 holes!
- **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 contact WSHA membership director Nicole Bruner at 509-665-9641 or email nicole@wahort.org. Remember, it is important to renew your WSHA membership promptly. Membership is required in order to register and attend the [WSHA 105th Annual Meeting and Trade Show](#) that will take place this December 7, 8 & 9 in Wenatchee, Washington. Thank you in advance for your membership investment.
- **NW Hort Expo/Trade Show** – The 105th WSHA NW Hort Expo/Trade Show will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center, December 7, 8 & 9th. Participating as an exhibitor 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 Dawn Milne at (509) 784-0357 or email dmilnetime2ride@verizon.net. The NW Hort Show is held in conjunction with the 105th WSHA Annual Meeting.

Headline Links

Huge Cherry Crop The Pits For Growers – Too much of a good thing has turned into a disaster for Eastern Washington cherry growers. Learn more at [the Herald](#).

Federal Minimum Wage Increases To \$7.25 – The competitive disadvantage endured by labor-intensive farm operations in Oregon, Washington and California narrowed slightly Friday, July 24, when the government raised the federal minimum wage from \$6.55 an hour to \$7.25. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

Visiting Importers Get Early Look At Potential Record Cherry Crop – Northwest Cherry Growers, representing producers in five states, hosted buyers from France and Belgium on the industry-sponsored tour that wraps up today in Chelan. Learn more on this story from [the Yakima Herald](#).

Officials In California Squash Fruit Fly Outbreak – State agriculture officials have lifted a quarantine in Los Angeles County after eliminating an infestation of the crop-destroying Mexican fruit fly. Read more at [the Capital Press](#).

Japanese Ease Rules On Cherries – Cherry growers in three West Coast states were able to ship sweet cherries to Japan more cheaply because of a change in the country's pest control requirements for imports of the fruit. Read more at [the Capital Press](#).

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