Hort Headlines

August 21, 2009

- **Grim Named 2009 Apple Man Of The Year** – The Packer's 2009 Apple Man of the Year award was announced at the Vienna, VA-based U.S. Apple Association's Crop Outlook and Marketing Conference on August 20, by Tom Karst the newspaper's national editor. The honor goes to Bruce Grim, the WSHA Executive Director and Manager of the Marketing Associations. Grim, has more than a quarter-century of experience in the tree fruit industry. Read more at *The Packer.*

- **WSHA Office Relocated** – The Washington State Horticultural Office was relocated on Friday, August 14 to the Washington Apple Commission building located at 2900 Euclid Ave., Wenatchee. Our phone numbers and mailing address of PO Box 136 | Wenatchee, WA will remain the same. **If you sent a fax on Friday, August 14 please resend due to phone lines being down during the move.**

- **Heat Stress Reminder** – 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.*

- **Human Trafficking Form Required** – Beginning July 26, 2009, you will be required to provide a Foreign Worker Human Trafficking Disclosure form to any worker you hire, if that worker is not a U.S. citizen and came to Washington based on an offer of employment. It's recommended that you provide the form to every person who fills out an I-9 form. Please view the attached *sample form* and *instructions*. If you have specific questions, contact Dan Fazio at 360-528-2917.

- **Washington Unemployment Rate Dips** – Officials say Washington's unemployment rate dropped to 9.1 percent in July, down from June's rate of 9.2 percent. The state gained 4,000 non-agriculture jobs in July. The last time the state saw an increase like this was November 2008 said officials. Although there's no real uptick in employment yet, officials did mention things are looking better.

- **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.

- **Miller Travel Grant Applications Now Being Accepted** – Applications are now being accepted for the Charles J. Miller Memorial Travel & Study Grant. Qualified fruit industry fieldmen, extension workers or other fruit industry service personnel of North Central Washington are welcome to apply. The deadline for application submissions is November 16, 2009. Link to the Charles J. Miller Travel & Study Grant Announcement to *download an application*. If you have additional questions email lynette@wahort.org.

Headline Links

Labor Department Inspections Bring Thousands In Fines – Farmers and orchardists across the county are worried after inspections from the U.S. Department of Labor cost some of them thousands of dollars, with little explanation. Learn more at *the Omak Chronicle*.

The Omnivore's Delusion: Against the Agri-intellectuals – Critics of "industrial farming" spend most of their time concerned with the processes by which food is raised. Learn more on this story from *www.american.com.*

Orchardists Seek Alternative Pollinators – The search for alternative pollinators may be intensifying as the U.S. honeybee population continues to struggle. Learn more on this story from *the Capital Press.*

Comprehensive Automation For Specialty Crops – New research aims to develop, test, deploy, and commercialize various systems to improve orchard management, streamline major operations such as harvest, and reduce growers' costs. Read more at *www.growingproduce.com*.

One Million Pounds Of Michigan Cherries Wasted Due To Federal Regulations – Michigan growers are being forced by federal regulations to destroy about a million pounds of cherries, reports *www.UpNorthLive.com*. Read more at *www.growing produce.com*.

Processors, Organic Growers Split On Safety Bill – Food processors and organic growers are split over whether to support the U.S. House-passed food safety bill. Read more at *the Capital Press*.

An Apple A Day Keeps Extinction Away For Rare Fruit – With endangered foods, you save them by eating them. Read more at *the LA Times*.

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