Hort Headlines

August 24, 2007

- **Labor Shortages Continue To Worry Industry** – One concern lingering over this apple crop is whether producers will have the labor supply needed to harvest it in a timely and productive manner. This is a busy time of year for a number of commodities, and overlapping crop harvests are sure to stress the limited labor supply in the state. Producers are encouraged to file job orders with their local WorkSource office. The Employment Security Department needs the information to assess the size of the problem. Also, the data collected from job orders will help document the extent of the shortage. Read a story how the shortage is effecting growers in N.Y. and nationwide at the *the NY Times.*

- **Washington's Fruit-Packing Houses Could Be Impacted By Study** – Last year the Washington state Department of Ecology analyzed hundreds of Yakima River fish for toxic chemicals and have recently started taking fresh water samples from numerous sources and discharges from permitted wastewater treatment plants. The state is looking for the presence of pesticides and polychlorinated biphenyls known as "PCBs". Ecology is also looking at chlorinated pesticides due to their persistent nature. The study covers the entire Yakima River where sampling will continue over the next year followed by an analysis. Approximately 29 fruit packing houses that obtain water-discharge permits from the city of Yakima could be affected by the study.

- **Free WSDA Pesticide Disposal Planned** – Farmers, residents and landowners are encouraged to safely dispose of old or unusable agricultural and commercial grade pesticides. The WSDA has scheduled collection events near Okanogan on October 17 and Orondo on October 18 to pick up unwanted pesticides. The deadline for signing up for the disposal is September 5. To sign up call (toll free) (877) 301-4555 or e-mail wastepesticide@agr.wa.gov. For more information you can also visit the WSDA's web site at *www.agr.wa.gov.*

- **California Apple Moth Spraying Delayed** – California state officials said a public outcry in northern Monterey Peninsula has caused the delay of aerial spraying meant to prevent the invasive light brown apple moth (LBAM) from breeding. The spraying has been delayed until city officials and area residents can meet to discuss the situation and address potential issues. In the 10 years of applications in the US, no health problems have been reported in animals or humans from aerial spraying of pheromones. This would be the first aerial pheromone application in California.

- **Fresh Fruits And Vegetables Sold Online** – Amazon.com launched in 1995 known as the world's largest bookseller has branched out into produce and launched this month *AmazonFresh.com.* Fresh fruits and vegetables can now be ordered online by consumers. Once the order is placed it is dropped off on the customer's doorstep early the next morning in a temperature-controlled tote. With a minimum order of $25, predawn shipping is free.

- **Agricultural Organics And Disease Suppression** – The Washington Organic Recycling Council (WORC) is offering its fourth annual Advanced Compost Training workshop titled "Agricultural Organics and Disease Suppression", September 12-13, 2007 in Pullman. This is a great opportunity to learn more about emerging technology and opportunities for organics recycling in horticultural and agriculture. Topics discussed: research ongoing at WSU in the field of composting, Sudden Oak Death, Fire Blight, soil fertility and more. The second day will consist of tours and field demonstrations. For more information and registration visit *www.compostwashington.org.*

- **Have You Renewed Your WSHA Membership** – By renewing your WSHA membership prior to the annual meeting you will be entered in a drawing for a chance to ***win a Utility Vehicle from Western Fruit Grower Magazine.*** The drawing will take place at our annual meeting December 5, in Wenatchee.

- **Don't Miss Out: Renew 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 coordinator Vicki Young at 509-665-9641 or email vicki@wahort.org. Remember, it is important to renew your WSHA membership promptly. ***Membership is required in order to register and attend the WSHA 103rd Annual Meeting and Trade Show that will take place this December 3, 4 & 5 in Wenatchee, Washington.*** Thank you in advance for your membership investment.

Headline Links

King Unseats Clements In Marquee 14th District Senate Race – Sen. Jim Clements, R-Selah, called it a career Tuesday night as political newcomer Curtis King easily swept past him after months of grass-roots campaigning as a candidate who would bring a more hard-line Republican approach to Olympia. Read the article from the *Yakima Herald.*

Certifier Fills A Growing Niche – Food Alliance, a Portland-based organization that certifies farms and food processors as sustainable, has emerged in recent years as a major player in agriculture. For more on this story visit the *Capital Press.*

Shaky Mortgage Market Spares Ag Borrowers – No man is an island, and no financial market is totally independent, but at least for now, the ripples from the national housing market meltdown are not being felt by agriculture. Visit the *Capital Press* to read more on this story or read another article also from the *Capital Press* on how farmland prices reach record levels.

Pew Study Finds Incomes Rising For Latino Immigrants – Latino immigrants have steadily moved out of jobs paying the lowest wages and into middle-income employment in the past decade, helped by the boom in the construction industry, which hires millions of foreign-born workers, according to a study released this week by the Pew Hispanic Center. Read more at the *Wenatchee World.*

A Keyboard In The Toolbox – Computers, Internet grow in popularity as another tool for producers. Read more at the *Capital Press.*

China's Policy Paper On Food Safety Highlights Country's Fight To Regain Consumer Confidence – China sought to shore up its battered reputation as a global exporter Friday, releasing a policy paper that touted its past food safety record and current campaign to crack down on poor - and potentially dangerous - food processing practices. Read more 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