



## Hort Headlines

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October 3, 2008

- **Six Month Phase In Period For COOL Rule** – On September 30, a six month phase-in period began for the country of origin labeling law for fresh produce at retail stores. There have been some fruit and vegetable industry leaders requesting a longer phase-in period but officials believe the six month phase-in is sufficient for the supply chain to get up to speed on the new federal law and correct older packaging that no longer complies. The total cost of implementation for the first year is estimated by the agency at \$2.5 billion for all covered commodities. Currently, USDA officials do not have the funds in place for surveillance and enforcement of country of origin and hope Congress will appropriate the \$9.6 million in fiscal year 2009 needed to enforce the regulations. Retailers will have 30 days to correct violations and avoid fine and those who willfully ignore the law could be fined \$1,000 per violation by April 2009.
- **\$13 Million Awarded By USDA To Improve Food Safety** – This week agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced \$13.8 million has been awarded to support research, education and outreach for food safety. The USDA awarded the grants in 19 states through the National Integrated Food Safety Initiative. The largest grant was awarded to researchers at Cornell University who will receive \$1,636,366 to study how to reduce the risk of contamination of fresh and fresh-cut fruits and vegetables in the fields, at harvest and during transportation, display and purchase. For more information visit [www.csrees.usda.gov](http://www.csrees.usda.gov).
- **Research Winery Opens At WSU** – Washington State University opens a new research winery that will start production this fall with capacity for approximately 5,000 gallons. The 500-thousand-dollar research winery is located at the WSU Agriculture Research Center in Prosser and will use university-grown grapes as well as grapes from cooperating vineyards. WSU winemakers, James Harbertson and Kerry Ringer, are

looking at how grafting vines, fermentation temperatures, and different practices and equipment affect wine quality. Under Washington State law, Harbertson's wine can't be distributed. So when the experiments are done, it gets poured down the drain. This will be the largest experimental, non-commercial winemaking facility in the Pacific Northwest. The information researchers expect to obtain should benefit vintages yet to be bottled.

- **Federal Grants Awarded** – Federal assistance has been awarded to ten Washington organizations as they work to expand economic opportunities for farmers and develop more efficient farming practices. The successful grant applicants were announced this week and will share \$324,000 in funding. Grants will be awarded to: the Washington Apple Commission \$29,500 for work in India, the Washington State Fruit Commission \$45,000 for cherry and apricot work in Mexico, the Pear Bureau Northwest \$7,500 for videos of production areas and \$44,241 to Washington State University to develop a microbial food safety risk assessment, collect data, and provide educational outreach to the apple industry. Read more at <http://agr.wa.gov/News/2008/08-33.htm>.
- **Naná Marta Simone Memorial Service Sunday** – Naná Marta Simone, 52, of Wenatchee, passed away Thursday, 25 September 2008 as a result of an ATV accident while working on one of her favorite projects, the construction of the Sage Hills Trail system, just west of Wenatchee. Contributions may be made to the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, PO Box 4461, Wenatchee, WA 98807. In addition, a memorial will be established to honor Naná's legacy of education within the tree fruit industry through the WAEF, 2900 Euclid Avenue, Wenatchee, WA 98801. A memorial service will take place at the Cashmere Riverside Center on Sunday, October 5, 2008 at 1:00pm. There will be a potluck after the service. Contact Susan Pheasant at (509) 421-0358 for more details. [\*Naná Simone Tribute\*](#) by the *Good Fruit Grower Magazine*.
- **Poster Session Invitation** – The call for poster presenters is now underway as part of the 104th Washington State Horticultural Association Annual Meeting and Postharvest conference. The poster session for this year's meeting will take place at the Yakima Convention Center December 1, 2, & 3 with a special poster presenter meet and greet Tuesday evening before the banquet. WTFRC is organizing and managing the poster session. If you would like to be a poster presenter please submit your request to [hanrahan@treefruitresearch.com](mailto:hanrahan@treefruitresearch.com) by November 3, 2008. Remember to include titles, author, names, organizations and your contact information. For more information download the [\*poster presenter invitation\*](#).
- **WSHA 104th Annual Meeting Information is Now On-Line** – The Washington State Horticultural Association's 104th Annual Meeting program guide, registration form and lodging guide are now available on the WSHA web-site at [www.wahort.org](http://www.wahort.org). This year's 104th Annual Meeting will take place December 1, 2, & 3 at the Yakima Convention Center. The theme this year is "*Celebrating Tree Fruit: Opportunities for the Next Generation.*" Don't miss the largest educational conference in the nation dedicated to tree fruit industry issues – sign up to attend today! To register contact Vicki at (509) 665-9641 or email [vicki@wahort.org](mailto:vicki@wahort.org).
- **NW Hort Expo/Trade Show** – The 104th WSHA NW Hort Expo/Trade Show will be held at the Yakima Sun Dome, December 1 (Monday) and December 2 (Tuesday) from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days. If you have not received information about the upcoming NW Hort Expo or booked space for your booth please contact [Angie Fiscus](#) or

call (509) 573.9858. The NW Hort Show is held in conjunction with the 104th WSHA Annual Meeting.

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## Headline Links

### **Bayer Pesticide Chemicals Linked to Devastating Collapse of Honeybee Populations**

– German government researchers have concluded that a bestselling Bayer pesticide is responsible for the recent massive die-off of honeybees across the country's Baden-Württemberg region. Learn more on this story from [www.naturalnews.com](http://www.naturalnews.com).

### **Santa Cruz Organic Farmer Awarded \$1 Million For Pesticide Drift**

– In a victory for the state's organic farmers, a Santa Cruz County jury has awarded a North Coast grower \$1 million in damages after deciding a pesticide company violated the farmer's rights when its chemicals drifted with the fog onto his organic crops. Read more at [www.mercurynews.com](http://www.mercurynews.com).

**Illegal Immigration Declines As Economy Falters** – Illegal immigration, which has sparked political and social turmoil in communities across the nation, is on the wane, according to an independent report released Thursday. Read the following article at the [Washington Times](http://WashingtonTimes.com).

**Feds Look To Tighten Laws Requiring Truckers To Speak English** – Federal law requires that anyone with a commercial drivers license speak English well enough to talk with police. Visit [Fox News](http://FoxNews.com) to learn more.

**'Liquidity Is King' For Farmers In Uncertain Times** – Jay Penick, chief executive officer of Northwest Farm Credit Services, says the agriculture industry is in a strong position to weather the financial crisis battering financial markets worldwide. Visit the [Capital Press](http://CapitalPress.com) to learn more.

**Grange Offers Ag Mediation** – Coordinators of a Washington State Grange agricultural dispute resolution program say if employers and employees don't begin using the service it may end next year. Read more on this story from the [Wenatchee World](http://WenatcheeWorld.com).

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