



## Hort Headlines

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October 10, 2008

- **2007 Agricultural Value Breaks Record In Washington State** – A report released from the Washington Bureau of Agricultural Statistics Service shows that several commodities, apples, pears, potatoes, hay and onions, set value records last year. The value of Washington's 2007 agricultural production reached a record \$8.51 billion, 23 percent above the 2006 revised figure of \$6.90 billion. For the fourth year in a row, apples topped the list with a value of \$1.75 billion, 24 percent above 2006. Apples represented 21 percent of the total agricultural value, unchanged from 2006.
- **\$28 Million Awarded By USDA For Specialty Crop Research** – This week Agriculture Secretary Ed Schafer announced that the USDA has awarded more than \$28 million through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative (SCRI) in an effort to solve critical specialty crop agriculture issues, address priorities and come up with solutions through multifunctional research and extension. Researchers at Washington State University were among the most successful nationwide receiving \$3.3 Million in USDA Specialty Crop Research Grants. This new program targets research funding to "specialty crops," which include fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture and nursery crops. Designated research funds had previously not been available for these crops. The awards also required 100 percent matching funds from non-federal sources. [Read More Here.](#)
- **USDA Pesticide-Testing Program Halted** – The Bush administration has decided to halt an \$8 million-a-year government program that tests the levels of pesticides in fruits, vegetables and field crops stating the program is too expensive.

The program was launched 18 years ago in an effort to help answer congressional concerns regarding the use of the chemical daminozide, or Alar on apples. Data from the program was collected until this year from the 18 year old Agricultural Chemical Usage Program that was administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency. The data collected was used to set safe levels of pesticides in food.

- **Farm Bureau Employer Services Labor Conference** – The Farm Bureau will hold an Agriculture Labor Conference in Wenatchee, Monday, November 17, from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., with a reception following, at the Wenatchee Convention Center. The Labor Conference is designed for the business owner, manager, or corporate Human Resources specialist and kicks off with a special VIP breakfast with Attorney General Rob McKenna as the guest speaker. To register for the seminar call Kim at (800) 331-3276 x126. Cost for the seminar is \$25 (pre-paid) or \$50 (at the door) for Farm Bureau Employer Service members and \$125 for non-members. Please visit [www.wsfb.com](http://www.wsfb.com) for details, including agendas, on-line registration, and more.
- **89th Washington Farm Bureau Annual Meeting** – Plan to attend the 89th Annual Meeting of the Washington Farm Bureau November 17-20, 2008 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Registration is \$48 per person and includes 6 meals and all materials. To register for the annual meeting, contact Margaret Warren at (800) 331-3276. For more information visit [www.wsfb.com](http://www.wsfb.com).
- **Business Planning Presented On CDs** – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is increasing outreach and education efforts conducted in Spanish in order to expand communication with a key stakeholder group: Latino farm communities. The communications provide guidance on business and financial planning, food safety, the safe and legal use of pesticides, and information on state and federal farm programs. The informational program is called "Risk Management Strategies for Farm Businesses: Information for Latino Farmers in Washington state." To receive a free set of the CDs contact Patrice Barrentine at [smallfarms@agr.wa.gov](mailto:smallfarms@agr.wa.gov) or (360) 902-2057.
- **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. 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. 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

**Apple Harvest Under Way** – The frost damage, while hitting pears, missed the Golden and Red Delicious in the orchard's hillsides overlooking the Wenatchee River. Learn more on this story from [the Wenatchee World](#).

**Farm Worker Receives Settlement In Insecticide-Exposure Suit** A Wenatchee farm worker has accepted a \$53,500 settlement in a case against an orchard and its foreman over the worker's exposure to a toxic insecticide. Read more at [the Yakima Herald](#).

**Agriculture: Who Will Follow In The Aging Farmer's Footsteps?** – The percentage of the nation's younger farmers, those under the age of 35, has decreased from 15.5 in 1978 to 5.8 percent last year. Read the following article at [www.ocala.com](http://www.ocala.com).

**Viral Bacteria Engineered To Spot E. Coli** – Intelliphage, West Lafayette, Ind., has developed what could be a breakthrough in the ongoing food safety campaign. Visit [the Packer](#) to learn more.

**States Want Say In Alerts** – The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture could ask Congress to help them gain a say in when and how FDA issues consumer alerts. Visit the [Capital Press](#) to learn more.

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