



## Hort Headlines

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October 17, 2008

- **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).
- **Apple Crop Larger Than Expected** – Washington's apple crop is predicted to be slightly larger than expected. The increased production estimates are based on larger production of Golden Delicious and Gala apples, which are picked early during harvest. The 2008 crop still has fruit to come off the trees and the new estimate should exceed 100 million boxes for fresh sale. The latest estimate is 101.6 million boxes, which includes more than 62 million from the Yakima Valley. The state record apple crop was 105 million boxes in 2004.
- **USDA Pesticide-Testing Program NOT Halted** – A recent report in the Chicago Tribune and cited in last week's "Hort Headlines," incorrectly reported that the Bush administration had decided to halt the 18-year-old Agricultural Chemical Usage Program. The program was launched in 1990 to answer congressional concerns over the use of the chemical daminozide, or Alar, on apples. **This program is not being discontinued.** The program that will end is the USDA National Ag statistics Service (NASS) "pesticide use"

survey. This is a survey that was sent in the past to growers asking about the number of acres treated and the number of applications by crop.

- **Apple Commission Adjusts Staff** – The Washington State Apple Commission has expanded personnel responsibilities in order to broaden the organization's foreign marketing program. According to Interim President, Ken Severn, the commission plans to spend a total of \$6.5 million in 25 countries to expand access to foreign markets. Severn said the personnel changes are intended to broaden responsibilities and help the commission continue to deliver a first-rate market development program. Project Manager Todd Fryhover will move into the position of export operations director. Washington Apple Commission vice president and treasurer, Robin Mooney, will assume responsibilities of Operations Director. Export Manager Rebecca Baerveldt will head up strategic planning, government relations, and grant writing.
- **USDA Crop Insurance Sales Closing Dates** – The sales closing date to purchase federal Multi-Peril Crop Insurance (MPCI) for the 2008 crop year is November 20, 2008. MPCI provides comprehensive protection against weather-related causes of loss and certain other unavoidable perils, as well as protection against low yields and poor quality as well as prevented planting, late planting, and replanting costs for most crops. Coverage is based on a percentage of the actual production history for the farm. Growers must make all their crop insurance-coverage decisions prior to the sales closing date. Find a crop insurance agent at <http://www3.rma.usda.gov/tools/agents/>. The premium calculator is available at <http://www.rma.usda.gov>. Information meetings will be held in Yakima, October 15 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the WA Fruit Commission Building, 105 18th St and Wenatchee, October 15 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the County Court House Annex 400 Douglas Street.
- **Washington Friends of Farms & Forests Seminar** – The WFFF will host a seminar on November 6, in Yakima starting at 10:00 a.m. at the Red Lion Hotel. The guest speaker is Dr. Chris Grue, University of Washington [www.fish.washington.edu](http://www.fish.washington.edu). He will be presenting his latest research on pesticides and salmon. Please RSVP by contacting Heather Hansen at 360.705.2040 or email [heatherhh@qwestoffice.net](mailto:heatherhh@qwestoffice.net).
- **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](#).
- **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

**EPA Fines 15 Cold Storage Facilities** – The Environmental Protection Agency has hit 15 Eastern Washington facilities that use anhydrous ammonia with more than \$700,000 in fines for not having adequate risk management plans in place. Learn more on this story from [\*the Capital Press\*](#).

**Computers Speed Agricultural Inspection Process** Mark Jolley used to carry armloads of reference manuals and handbooks to the central Washington warehouses where he inspects apples and pears to ensure their quality for the export market. Read more at [\*Komo News\*](#).

**Border Patrol's Expanded Operation Irking Washington Farmers** – Expanded U.S. Border Patrol operations in Washington state have created friction between the agency and a farmers organization, underlining the debate over immigration and the labor needs of the state's multibillion-dollar agricultural industry. Read the following article at [\*the Bellingham Herald\*](#).

**Crackdown On illegal Immigration Boosts Food Prices** – Immigration controls that inhibit the free movement of workers to jobs that need them operate as a drag on the free market, increasing costs all along the line. Visit [\*the Seattle Times\*](#) to learn more.

**Food Safety Experts Debate Irradiation's Potential** – Food safety experts revisited the topic of irradiation Sept. 11 at the Fresh Express Fresh Produce Safety Research Conference, and many agreed irradiation is part of the safety solution but probably not the end-all, be-all. Visit the [\*Packer\*](#) to learn more.

**Economy's Woes Slow U.S. Immigration Boom** – The wave of immigrants entering the United States slowed dramatically last year as the economy faltered and the government stepped up enforcement of immigration laws. Visit the [\*Seattle PI\*](#) to learn more.

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