



Hort Headlines

November 7, 2008

- **Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking (PIRT) Meeting** – The Pesticide Incident Reporting and Tracking (PIRT) Review Panel meeting will be held in Yakima on November 20, from 10 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the WSDA Conference Room 238 located at 21 N 1st Avenue. Plan to attend this important meeting, which will provide an opportunity for farmers and ranchers to voice their concerns. There will be a public question and comment opportunity at the end of each topic with a final one at the end of the meeting. For more information contact Fran McBride at francis.mcbride@doh.wa.gov or (360) 236-3367.
- **Apple Exporters Shipping To China** – Facilities that want to export apples to China must register with the Chinese government. The registration process occurs through membership in Northwest Fruit Exporters (NFE). NFE updates the list of participating facilities two times per season, once in the fall and again in the spring. Learn more [*Registration for China.*](#)
- **Washington Growers Possibly Eligible for Loans** – The federal Farm Service Agency recently announced central Washington growers who sustained significant crop losses during the unusually cold spring can now apply for low-interest disaster relief loans. The USDA issued a designation for growers who sustained 30% production losses are possibly eligible for 3.75%, 40-year loans. The designation covers six counties including: Yakima, Benton, Franklin, Grant, Chelan and Douglas, Kittitas and Klickitat counties. Growers need to contact their local FSA (Farm Service Agency) office found in the local phone book under the Blue pages – United States Government USDA (United States

Department of Agriculture). For additional information contact JoLynne Seufer at jo.lynne.seufer@rma.usda.gov or (509) 353-2147.

- **Applications Accepted For The Specialty Block Grant Program** – The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is accepting funding proposals under the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The amount available to Washington state is approximately \$259,115 during this funding cycle. The maximum amount of funding per project is \$50,000. Applications are due January 7, 2009. Eligible candidates interested in obtaining grant program funds are invited to submit applications to WSDA. Download more details on the [Specialty Block Grant Program](#).
- **Tree Fruit Day Set For February 3, 2009** – WSHA's 6th Annual Tree Fruit Day is scheduled for Tuesday, February 3 in Olympia. The one-day event will include visits with key legislators and agency officials. Tree fruit industry gift boxes will also be distributed again this year to all legislators and their legislative assistants. Visit the [WSHA web-site](#) to download a registration form.
- **Ag Safety Day Set For Yakima (Story Correction)** – The fifth annual Agriculture Safety Day will be held **Wednesday, February 25**, at the Yakima Convention Center from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The program is designed for employers, supervisors, farmworkers and safety professionals. All sessions will be offered in English and Spanish. Topics to be discussed will include tractor and ladder safety, injury prevention, cross-cultural communication, conducting an accident investigation, and handling HR issues. The conference fee is \$50 at the door and includes a buffet lunch. To register online visit www.wagovconf.org for more information email shannon@kfevents.com.
- **Washington Apple Commission Nominations** – Nominations for grower positions for the Washington State Apple Commission Board of Directors will be held during the WSHA Annual Meeting at 1:15 p.m. on Monday, December 1, 2008, at the Yakima Convention Center in room C & D. To learn more [read the announcement](#) or call Danelle Trovato at (509) 663-9600 x234. Open positions at this time include:
 - **Position 2, Grower District 1**, *representing Chelan, Douglas and Okanogan Counties. This position is currently held by Richard Thomason of Brewster.*
 - **Position 4, Grower District 3**, *includes all the counties in the state not included in the first and second districts. This position is currently held by Dalton Thomas of Wenatchee, who is seeking re-election.*
 - **Position 6, Grower District 2**, *representing Kittitas, Yakima, Benton and Franklin Counties. This position is currently held by Eric Hansen of Yakima.*
- **Annual Meeting Early Registration Deadline** – All WSHA Annual Meeting registration forms received by Wednesday, November 19 qualify for the early meeting registration rate of \$90. Meeting registration received after Wednesday, November 19 is \$115. Be sure to get the best available meeting rate by sending your registration form in

early! This year's 104th Annual Meeting will take place December 1, 2 & 3 at the Yakima Convention Center. Also, be sure to attend the WSHA Banquet on Tuesday night. Thanks to the Western Fruit Grower and United Phosphorus, Inc., the first 200 attendees will receive a complimentary print of "Orchard Bloom," a painting by Wenatchee artist Jan Cook Mack. Visit www.wahort.org to register or email vicki@wahort.org to sign up today!

- **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.

Headline Links

Farm Bureau Sets Conference – The Washington State Farm Bureau's labor conference, "Tools of the Trade," will feature the latest immigration issues and other topics of interest to employers. Learn more on this story from [the Capital Press](#).

Northwest Pears 'Very Promotable' This Year – Movement of high-quality Northwest pears should stay brisk into the holiday season, with prices in the \$1.49 -1.99-per-pound range expected, grower-shippers said. Read more at [the Packer](#).

Growers Face Customers More Reluctant To Spend – Even with the new emphasis on the healthful benefits of fruits and vegetables, specialty crops growers weren't doing as well as producers of ordinary commodity crops like grains and oil seeds. Read the following article at [the Fruit Grower's News](#).

Apple Commission Expands Foreign Reach – The Washington Apple Commission announced a plan to expand foreign export marketing of Washington apples due to a larger crop than expected. Visit [the Capital Press](#) to learn more.

Even Organic Not Safe From Recession – Despite more organic food and beverage products on grocery store shelves, all is not healthy in the world of pesticide-free, additive-free edibles. In fact, Mintel predicts that market growth rates for organic food and drink will decline, especially as the economy struggles. Visit the [www.marketwatch website](http://www.marketwatch.com) to learn more.

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