



Hort Headlines

November 13, 2009

- **Miller Travel Grant Applications Now Being Accepted** – Applications are now being accepted for the Charles J. Miller Memorial Travel & Study Grant. Qualified fruit industry fieldmen, extension workers or other fruit industry service personnel of North Central Washington are welcome to apply. The **deadline** for application submissions has been extended to November 30, 2009. Link to the Charles J. Miller Travel & Study Grant Announcement to [download an application](#). If you have additional questions email lynette@wahort.org.
- **USDA Funds \$19m for Organics** – The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced \$19m in funding for organic agricultural research across the country as part of an effort toward a more sustainable supply of organic ingredients. "Organic agriculture is one of the fastest growing segments of US agriculture and USDA and Congress, through the 2008 Farm Bill, are committed to helping this industry succeed by addressing critical organic agriculture issues through the integration of research, education and extension projects" said Agriculture deputy secretary Kathleen Merrigan. Since the late 1990's, U.S. organic production has more than doubled, but the consumer market has grown even faster.
- **Dates Set for Workshops to Explore Competition and Regulatory Issues in Ag Industry** – The Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today the dates and locations of joint public workshops that will explore competition and regulatory issues in the agriculture industry. The goals of the workshops are to promote dialogue among interested parties and

foster learning with respect to the appropriate legal and economic analyses of these issues, as well as to listen to and learn from parties with experience in the agriculture sector. Additional updates and information, including agendas and speakers, will be posted on the Antitrust Division's events website at www.usdoj.gov/atr/events.htm.

- **iPhone Application Helps Shoppers Pick Apples** – Savvy shoppers now have images and information on more than 20 different apple varieties available right on their iPhones and iPod touch. Them Apples, is a new application that is downloadable through iTunes, and features a comprehensive index of the most popular apple varieties and their best uses. The app is a free download. The new application is already receiving a four star rating from users and is fully compatible with all iPhone and iPod touch devices. The program is best suited for consumers while shopping at the supermarket.
- **GRAS²P 102 – Sustainability Basics** – Hands-on training, utilizing the GRAS2P guidance manual will be available immediately following the 2009 Hort Convention in Wenatchee. The second session will take place on Thursday morning, 10 December. The session will focus on preparations for Sustainability Basics. Participants will utilize the GRAS2P Orchard Operations Guidance Manual to prepare their documentation, procedures, and policies to address the areas of Crop Protection, Soil Fertility, Water Management, Benchmarking as well as EZ Audit Preparedness. Cost is \$75 for all three sessions or \$30/session plus \$50 for the GRAS2P Orchard Operations Guidance Manual for members of WSHA. For more information contact, the Hort office at 509.665.9641 or email gras2p@wahort.org.
- **WSHA 105th Annual Meeting Information is Now On-Line** – Make sure to register for the Washington State Horticultural Association's 105th Annual Meeting this December 7, 8, and 9. For more information on this year's meeting, program guide, registration form and lodging guide visit www.wahort.org. The theme this year is "**Resilient Growers – Facing Challenges, Leading Changes.**" Don't miss the largest educational conference in the nation dedicated to tree fruit industry issues.
- **NW Hort Expo Contact Information** – If you have not received information about the upcoming NW Hort Expo or booked space for your booth please contact Dawn Milne at (509) 784-0357 or email dmilnetime2ride@verizon.net. **Please note**, booth space is now full and you will be placed on a waiting list. The NW Hort Expo is held in conjunction with the 105th WSHA Annual Meeting.

Headline Links

Air Quality Study Shows Low Pesticide Risk – Project to help growers transition to new pest controls receives continued funding. Learn more at [the](#)

[Good Fruit Grower.](#)

Apple Growers Eyeing Big Returns – Record shipments of fresh Washington apples this season are raising hopes for better returns for growers over the next year in the face of a slow economy and competition. Learn more at [the Yakima Herald.](#)

Apple Holdings Down From 2008 – Holdings for both fresh and processing apples in the U.S. are down from a year ago, according to a new storage survey released by the U.S. Apple Association (USApple). Learn more at www.growingproduce.com.

Fed Plans \$18.6 Million Apple Purchase – The U.S. Apple Association (USApple) applauded the Obama Administration for its plan to purchase \$18.6 million worth of apples in the near future. Learn more on this story from www.growingproduce.com.

It Was Inevitable. Urban Environmentalists From Spokane Are Going To Sue To Stop An Irrigation Project For Farmers – In April \$55 million of federal stimulus money was secured to build two water routes. Learn more on this story from [the Columbia Basin Herald.](#)

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