



COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2012

CALENDAR

January 2012

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see flyer

February 2012

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Meeting
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OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 9am-1pm
Afternoons subject to
change. Call 387-4769
for hours.

GOVERNOR KITZHABER VISIT

On December 8th, at the request of Rep. Mark Johnson, Gov. Kitzhaber visited Hood River to meet with industry representatives. I was among those invited to speak with the Governor at a round-table meeting. We each had three minutes to introduce our respective industry and address any issues that the state could be of assistance. The four topics I presented were: 1) Labor—although a federal issue, agriculture would be negatively impacted by any state immigration laws; 2) Right-to-Farm laws are facing challenges around the state and it is important that the state maintain these laws; 3) restore funding of Experiment Stations and Extension Services—both of these are extremely important to the health of the local industry; 4) trade agreements which allow for new export markets—Gov. Kitzhaber had recently returned from a trade mission to S. Korea, Japan and China. This allowed me to thank him for the work he is doing to open and strengthen these markets.

I was able to provide statistics on the financial value of the tree-fruit industry to both Hood River County's and the state of Oregon's economy.

These opportunities are usually brief, but valuable. Our message is the same as other agricultural groups, and repetition means a greater chance of being heard. -Jean

AG-TOOLS ACADEMY

Join Clark Seavert on January 17th from 9 am to 1 pm at the Pine Grove Grange for the *AgTools*TM Academy - Orchard Renewal Strategies for the Pear Growers. For those not familiar with *AgTools*TM, it is a suite of software programs that helps producers make better decisions to manage the financial risk involved in agriculture. This *AgTools*TM Academy is a workshop that will explore the financial realities of orchard renewal strategies specifically for pears using updated features of the *AgTools*TM program. A case study will be provided as a method of active learning and to focus our discussions on a representative pear farm in the Hood River Valley. Lenders from Farm Credit Services, CenterPointe Community Bank and Columbia State Bank will be on hand to offer financial advice on the results of the case study. You will learn how to best finance your potential orchard renewal strategies.

This workshop is presented by OSU Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics and OSU Extension Service in collaboration with Columbia Bank, Farm Credit Services, and CenterPointe Community Bank. This workshop is offered at no charge, but pre-registration is required by January 12th. Call 541-386-3343 ext. 255, or email steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu.

TRAINING MATERIALS

The following training materials are available at the CGFG office.

For sale on DVD - \$4 each

- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Orchard Workers
- EPA Worker Protection Standard - Pesticide
- Tractor Safety
- Orchard Ladder Safety & Forklift Training

For Loan on VHS

- Load & Lift (English)
- Tripod Orchard Ladder Safety

PESTICIDE CORE WORKSHOP

The OSU Extension Service is offering a Pesticide Core and Pre-Exam workshop on Thursday, January 19, 2012 beginning at 8 am, in Columbia Gorge Community College Lecture Hall on the 3rd floor in Building 2 in The Dalles. The class is qualified as Oregon Core training or for "Other Credits" if an applicator has already taken the Core class required for recertification. Additionally, participants can claim an extra hour towards recertification, giving them five hours credit for the day. Note we are also applying for WSDA Pesticide Credits for this class.

Registration can be done at the door. There is a \$10 fee for the class. For those who wish to take the Oregon Pesticide Applicator Exams, there will be a proctor available at 1:30 pm. Those taking the exam will need a photo identification and

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\$25 and register with the Wasco County Extension Office. Questions may be directed to the Wasco County Extension Service at 541-296-5494.

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WORKSHOPS, COURSES AND MEETINGS

Glyphosate Resistance Management Workshop

This workshop is scheduled for January 27th. It will focus on the prevention and management of glyphosate-resistant weeds in orchards and vineyards. The workshop will be held at the Pine Grove Grange, Hood River. Key topics to be presented include:

- Glyphosate stewardship: Keeping an effective herbicide effective
- Managing glyphosate-resistant weeds in glyphosate-resistant crops
- Selection pressure, shifting populations, and herbicide resistance and tolerance
- Herbicide resistance: Comparison of glyphosate resistance to other cases of resistance
- Preventing and managing glyphosate-resistant weeds in orchards and vineyards

Workshop leaders include Kassim Al-Khatib, UC Davis, Ed Peachey, Oregon State University, and Rick Boydston, USDA-ARS, Prosser, WA. [Two pesticide recertification credits are anticipated for this workshop.](#) The workshop is offered at no charge, but preregistration is required by January 23rd. Call 541-386-3343 ext. 255, or email steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu.

Hood River Winter Horticulture Meeting

The meeting is scheduled for January 31st at the Pine Grove Grange. The full agenda is included in this mailing. In addition to informative presentations on horticulture, pest management, and other pertinent topics, this year the meeting will feature the presentation of the Oregon Horticultural Society Hart-

man Cup Award. The Hartman Cup is presented to a member of the Oregon horticultural community who has demonstrated meritorious service to horticulture and has made outstanding contributions to the production and marketing of horticultural products. The 2012 recipient of the Hartman Cup will be Helmut Riedl, OSU-MCAREC Emeritus Professor of Entomology. Join us in congratulating Helmut on receiving this award. For more information about the Winter Horticulture Meeting, call 541-386-3343 ext. 255, or email

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Orchard Biological Control Short Course

We are pleased to announce *Focusing on Tomorrow Today: enhancing biological control in orchard cropping systems*. This is a two-day intensive workshop on natural enemies and novel tools to maximize biological control in western orchards. The course will highlight new information learned from cutting edge research focused on enhancing

Continued from page 3

biological control in western apple, pear and walnut orchards. The information presented in this course is helpful and relevant to most perennial cropping systems. Preregistration is required. Online registration and more information are available at: <http://enhancedbiocontrol.org/>. The short course, which is scheduled for February 7 & 8, will originate from Wenatchee, WA with satellite locations in Hood River and Pasco, WA. This event is organized and presented by: WSU-TFREC, Wenatchee, WA; USDA-ARS, Wapato, WA; OSU-MCAREC, Hood River, OR; UC Berkeley, UC Cooperative Extension, and UC-IPM. For questions about the Hood River program, call 541-386-3343 ext. 255, or email steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu.

NRCS INITIATIVES

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is now offering three initiatives aimed to help producers conserve energy, extend the growing season, and assist organic production. All three initiatives are funded through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). Applications are accepted on a continuous basis with three cutoff dates for ranking applications: Feb. 3, March 30, and June 1, 2012.

The On-Farm Energy Initiative helps producers conserve energy on their agricultural operations. Funds may be used to develop agricultural energy management plans based on energy audits. Funds may also be used to implement recommended energy conservation measures.

The Seasonal High Tunnel Initiative helps producers purchase and erect high tunnels, or hoop houses. The tunnels extend the growing season for high value crops.

The Organic Initiative provides assistance to install conservation practices on agricultural operations that are either certified organic or are working towards organic certification. Funding is available specifically to address natural resource concerns such as soil erosion, water conservation, or plant condition.

For additional information regarding these initiatives, visit the Oregon NRCS website at: www.or.nrcs.usda.gov. To determine your eligibility for USDA programs, please contact your local Farm Service Agency office in The Dalles at 541-298-8559. Applications for the EQIP program can be submitted to your local NRCS office by contacting Carly Heron at 541-386-2815.

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BOLI POSTERS

The all-in-one BOLI poster that covers both Federal and State labor laws has two changes this year. One change is the new minimum wage of \$8.80 for the state of Oregon. BOLI has agreed that a sticker with the new minimum wage can be used to cover the 2011 minimum wage. These stickers will be available at the CGFG office (or you may print one yourself).

The other change is in the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) poster. Enclosed in this newsletter is a copy of the 2012 OFLA poster which has been reduced in size to fit on your existing BOLI poster. You will need to trim the edges, and then tape it over the existing OFLA poster. BOLI has agreed that this can be done.

If you would like a new poster, they will be available at the CGFG office within the next couple of weeks. BOLI is sending a shipment of 50 directly from the printer. The cost will be \$15 per poster.

NORTHWEST HORT REPORTS

USDA's Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) published in the *Federal Register* the general conditions under which Chinese sand pears may be allowed entry into the United States. The Tree-Fruit Technical Advisory Council (TreeTAC), chaired by Dr. Jim McFerson, will read and evaluate APHIS' proposed rule and provide a technical response to it prior to February 11, 2012, the close of its 60 day official comment period. Concurrently, for United States pears to be allowed to be imported by Chinese customers, NHC staff is preparing proposed mitigation measures for specific phytosanitary concerns (codling moth, fire blight and postharvest fungi) previously noted by China's plant quarantine agency. APHIS has indicated a target of early spring 2012 for reaching agreements on these two technically separate but politically intertwined work plans: Chinese sand pears to the United States and our own country's pears to China.

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Visit the following website to listen to Michael Willett, NW Horticultural Council, explain the value of USDA NASS Chemical Use Data Series. Local growers have been contacted to participate, so this will answer any questions you might have.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WWA3hyZfQyE>

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