

COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2010

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

CALENDAR

October

- 23 Spanish language Basic Math for Pesticide Applicators Call CGCC for information 541.506.6011

November

- 3 Core Pesticide Training (see article)
- 9 Agricultural Free Hazardous Waste Collection, Hood River*
- 10 Agricultural Free Hazardous Waste Collection, The Dalles*

*Pre-registration required for both dates. Call 800-547-2436

December

- 17 Annual Meeting

OFFICE HOURS

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

The Nomination Committee has submitted the names of Jeff Heater (at-large) and Ken Bailey (Wasco County) to run for three-year term positions on the Board of Directors.

The by-laws also allow for a member to run by submitting a petition signed by five members in good stand at Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers. The petition is due by November 15, 2010.

Board of Directors' bal-

lots will be included in the next newsletter, along with the 2011 budget as submitted by the Budget Committee.

This year, the annual business meeting will be held at the Pine Grove Grange, 4:00 p.m., December 17th.

There will be a report from the Board of Direc-

tors, open discussion on the proposed budget, a vote on the budget and the announcement of the new 2011 board members.

Refreshments and beverages will be served.



OREGON'S MINIMUM WAGE TO RISE IN 2011

State Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian an-



nounced that Oregon's minimum wage will rise to \$8.50 per hour next year. The 10-cent increase mirrors a 1.15% increase in the Consumer Price Index since August 2009. Oregon's minimum

wage rate has been \$8.40 per hour since January 1, 2009. Washington's minimum wage, currently at \$8.55 per hour, will rise to \$8.67 per hour in 2011.

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

FIT TESTING - BASIC INFORMATION

Medical evaluation (or a **fitness evaluation**): A (confidential) questionnaire is filled out by an employee and sent or brought to a doctor for



evaluation to wear a respirator. This questionnaire includes various questions that can point out health problems not

conducive to the wearing of certain respirators. A physical or a test might be required beyond the questionnaire. The evaluator then sends a letter to the employer indicating whether or not the employee passed and if a follow-up is required. This is done initially before an employee wears a respirator, or after, if he should have a medical problem later, if the doctor requests a follow-up, or if he is going to wear a different respirator and has not been evaluated for that type (e.g., from Kasco to tight fit-

ting). Keep records for all employees tested. (For all types of respirators EXCEPT a dust mask used on an optional basis)

Fit testing: After the medical evaluation, then the employee is fit tested. The easiest type of fit-testing to conduct is the irritant smoke method. The tester must obtain an actual fit test kit (e.g., can't use BBQ smoke...) from a safety supply company. The employer can conduct it or have a safety supply company perform it. Some occupational health clinics

See Fit Testing, page 3

CGFG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Jeff Heater - Chair
- Paul Aubert - Vice-Chair
- Ken Bailey - Secretary
- Brad Pickering - Treasurer
- Erick von Lubken
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Hood River

GORGE SECURITY SHRED (GSS)

Attention Growers and Shippers. Do you have tax records, payroll and other confidential documents that need to be shredded? Gorge Security Shred (GSS) at 2940 Thomsen Road, Hood River is the answer. GSS will help you meet your standards of green business practices with environmentally responsible

document destruction. Give them a call at 541-490-7078 and they can answer any questions you have. GSS is a division of Opportunity Connections, a non-profit organization that serves people with developmental and physical disabilities in Oregon and Washington

FIT TESTING (CONT. FROM PAGE 2)

perform it, too. Not only is the smoke waved near the mask, but the employee must perform various movements, such as moving the head from side to side, and reading words, such as The Rainbow Passage (although for Spanish speakers, something else could be substituted). We describe this method in our booklet for agricultural employers:

<http://www.orosha.org/pdf/pubs/3654.pdf>

It is very important that the person conducting this assure that HEPA cartridges are used, so that irritant smoke doesn't get sucked into the cartridge itself. The organic vapor cartridges won't keep the smoke out. The

whole idea of this test is to test for the seal around the face.

Another method is the Isoamyl Acetate (Banana Oil) method. This method is a little more involved.

Fit-testing must be conducted annually. Other reasons it would be required include physiological changes such as loss of teeth, or change of the type of respirator (even going from a North half-mask to an MSA half-mask).

(For all tight fitting respirators only—not necessary with the KASCO helmet. Not required for a dust mask used on an optional basis.)

Fit Check: This is done prior to the fit test to assure that the handler has donned the respira-

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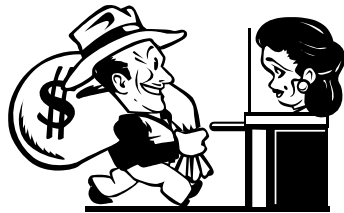
tor correctly for testing. Then after fit-testing, it is done each time after the respirator is donned prior to handling work. (For all tight

fitting respirators, except for dust masks used on an optional basis.)

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

**FINAL PAYCHECKS
SEASONAL WORKERS**

When employment of seasonal farmworkers terminates, wages are due immediately. However, if a seasonal farmworker quits without giving at least 48 hours notice, wages are due within 48 hours or at the next scheduled payday, whichever is earlier. ORS 652.145



**CORE PESTICIDE TRAINING/RECERTIFICATION
FOR PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATORS**

A Core pesticide training session will be offered at the Pine Grove Grange on Wednesday, November 3. The training session will start promptly at 1 pm and end at 4:35 pm. Four hours of Oregon and Washington recertification credit will be available for the training session. You must be present for the entire program to receive any credit.

There will be a \$10 charge for the training. Cash or checks payable to OSU Extension Service will be accepted. For more information about the Core training, call the OSU Extension Service Office in Hood River at (541) 386-3343 or email steve.castagnoli@oregonstate.edu.

Private applicators must accumulate a total of 16 credit hours during their five-year certification period. Four of these hours must be Core training. Twelve must be "other" ODA accredited training. The Core training may be repeated one additional time during the certification period for "other" credits. No more than eight

See Core Training, page 5

NCAE REPORTS BY CHRISTIAN SCHLECT

On September 13, I attended a joint meeting of the Steering Committee, Technical Working Group, and Operations Committee; all three being creatures of the Produce GAPs Harmonization Initiative. I serve on the Steering Committee of this national industry-wide effort, which is aimed at reducing the number of separate private audits required of fruit and vegetable producers. About 45 people attended, with key leaders that day including: Jim Lemke of C.H. Robinson Worldwide and chairman of the Steering Committee; Dr. David Gombas of the United Fresh Produce Association; Suresh DeCosta of McDonald's Corporation and chair-

man of the Technical Committee; and, Dave Corsi of Wegmans Food Markets and chairman of the Operations Committee. In addition, both Tom Stenzel of United and Brian Silbermann of the Produce Marketing Association were present. In summary: (A) good progress was reported in melding the wording of the various existing produce food safety auditing schemes aimed at the production and post-harvest levels. The chairman of the Technical Committee indicated it would have one more meeting, on October 21-22 in Issaquah, Washington to wrap up its year-long effort; (B) in terms of future control of any newly accepted stan-

dard, the Operations Committee suggested that United Fresh Produce Association serve as the secretariat providing oversight, with the Technical Committee staying in place and responsible for any future content changes or improvements; (C) next steps will include the selection of two or three commodities for a pilot test of the harmonization process; and, (D) the tree fruit industry will need to decide how it wants to proceed with commodity specific standards under the general umbrella of the harmonization effort. (Currently, for example, leafy greens and tomatoes have developed such

specific industry-wide standards.)

HOUSING NEEDED

Hi, my name is David Gibeaut and I am Todd Einhorn's new postdoctoral research associate at MCAREC. I have relocated from Florida and am in search of long-term housing. I would like to find a small to medium size rental property, preferably a 2-3 bedroom house near Hood River. I would be the sole occupant until my new wife can relocate in several months time. We are 50+ with no children. I am very handy about the house and would also like room for a small garden.

If you have a budget minded property for rent, please email or call me. I am ready to move asap.

david.gibeaut@oregonstate.edu
541-386-2030 ext 19

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CORE TRAINING CONT. FROM P. 4

credit hours may be accumulated in any one calendar year.

Not sure of your recertification status? You may check your accumulated recertification credits, as well as get more information about pesticide related certification exams, licensing, or recertification by contacting the ODA Pesticides Division at (503) 986-4635 or: <http://egov.oregon.gov/ODA/PEST/>.

COLUMBIA GORGE FRUIT GROWERS

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 168
Odell, OR 97044

Physical Address:

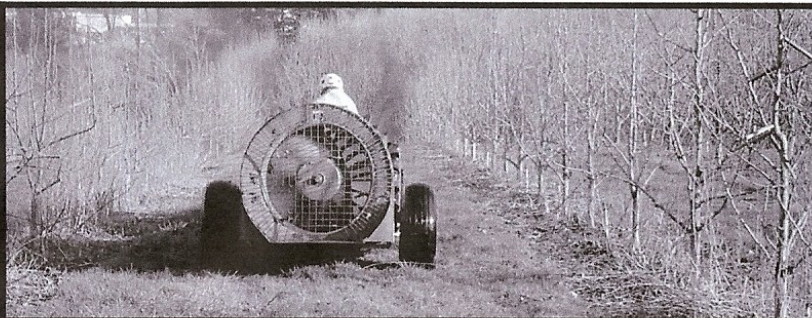
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Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers cooperates with Hood River County on a low-interest (3%), 10-year loan program that is eligible for farm worker housing projects; conversion to propane orchard heaters; micro-sprinkler systems; and wind machines. Each grower can apply for \$25,000 on a first-come, first-served basis and there is currently \$30,000 available. If you would like more information on this loan or would like to request an application, please call the CGFG office.

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