



Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

July 2017

Web: <http://cgfg.org/>
Phone: 541-387-4769
E-mail: cgfg2@hrecn.net

CGFG launches weather network; looks to expand station locations

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers is looking for growers interested in installing new CGFG Weather Network stations. Twelve stations were activated in fall 2016, providing data via an updated web interface located here: <https://www.rainwise.net/weather/MobileStation>.

Late summer and fall is an excellent time to get new stations in place. A substantial price break – more than 28% – can be achieved by purchasing 10 or more new stations at once.

The CGFG Weather Network will eventually replace the old IFPnet stations, which have become too expensive to maintain.

New stations can be erected in current IFPnet

CGFG WEATHER NETWORK

STATION COST

Individual:	\$2,400 each*
Purchased in Bulk:	\$1,716 each*

*July 2017 estimate

stations sites. The new network's RainwiseNet web site offers substantial weather data on wind direction, temperature, humidity, dewpoint, air pressure and precipitation. Detailed graphs provide downloadable visual information for the previous 30 days.

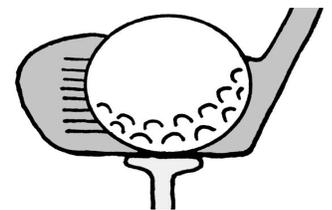
Please see Page 3

Golf tourney tees Aug. 2 at Indian Creek

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' Scrambler Golf Tournament is scheduled for Wednesday, Aug. 2, at Indian Creek Golf Course, with a noon lunch followed by a 1 p.m. tee time.

The tournament is open to everyone involved in the fruit industry, as well as sponsors.

To register a 4-person team, email CGFG at cgfg2@hrecn.net, or call (541) 387-4769.



Farm safety education project begins

Hood River Valley has been an orchard community for more than 100 years. A lot of folks drawn to the area for its abundant recreation and lifestyle may not immediately recognize a big part of the local beauty is the result of hard work by generations of farmers.

An effort has begun to share a simple message: We farm here.

In June, local growers met with Travel Oregon staff with a goal to educate people that the Hood River Valley is an agriculture area, with busy farm practices occurring on more than 14,500 acres of tree fruit orchards.

The newly formed CGFG Farm Safety Committee was developed in late winter after 40 growers met with Hood River County officials to begin a discussion on farming and recreation in an area increasingly marketed to adventure seekers.

Farmers have a variety of concerns: people entering farms without permission,

Please see Page 3

CALENDAR

JULY 2017

- 25 Grower Meeting on OSU Extension Positions, 10 a.m., Columbia Gorge Community College Lecture Hall (Building 2 Third Floor), The Dalles.



SB 1 a bipartisan farm housing effort

By **CHUCK THOMSEN**
District 26 Senator

This session I'm a Chief Sponsor along with Sen. Peter Courtney for Senate Bill 1, which is a tax credit for operational costs dealing with agricultural worker housing. It also allows for the refundability and transferability of credits. The goals are simple: Incentivizing more worker housing, and creating a climate where quality of housing is encouraged. It also has the benefit of easing the currently stressed housing and rental market.

The story of how this bill came to be, and my optimism that we'll eventually succeed, is the reason I'm in Salem – to produce a bipartisan bill that helps constituents on all sides of a problem.

Last year I was chatting casually with Sen. Courtney, and we realized we had a common goal. He represents Woodburn and much of its surrounding area, and I represent the Hood River Valley as part of my district. Both areas have high agricultural worker populations, and like me, he has always wanted to find ways to improve worker housing and living conditions.

As a housing provider, I told him that Oregon offers growers little incentive to maintain, repair and improve worker camps. Currently, the main driver behind worker housing is to ensure

a steady labor force as the market ebbs and flows, and we concluded that more growers would invest in housing if an Oregon tax incentive was created.

This led to a coalition that involved Ramon Ramirez from PCUN, the Farm Bureau, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' Amanda Dalton, Sen. Courtney and me. Last summer, they all came

GOAL: 'Creating a climate where quality housing is encouraged.'

out to Hood River and we had day of touring and brainstorming. It started at my house and orchard, we then toured our camp, and then on to Mike Oates' orchard, where he and Rep. Mark Johnson showed everyone the cabins they were building. Eventually we finished at Full Sail Brewery.

After our tour of Hood River, we had broad support from both sides to give worker housing providers a tax credit. That culminated into a work group which produced Senate Bill 1. This session, it has already passed the Senate Workforce Committee, and is waiting in the Senate Revenue Committee. I consider this bill to be the best hope to help growers provide workforce housing, and I hope we can continue to press our colleagues to pass it during this session.

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OSU provides Extension update at July 25 meet

OSU will hold a meeting July 25 in The Dalles to discuss the refilling of the Hood River and Wasco County Horticulture extension positions.

The meeting will be held on July 25 in The Dalles at the Columbia Gorge Community College Lecture Hall which is on the third floor in Building 2 beginning at 10 a.m.

The focus of the meetings will be to discuss creating a Regional Horticulture Position for Hood River and Wasco County Counties focused on Commercial Horticulture with an emphasis on tree fruit production. Specific program needs will be discussed.

For those who are unable to attend these meetings they can send comments to Brian Tuck at Brian.Tuck@oregonstate.edu, or call Wasco County Extension at 541-296-5494.

Thanks Lynn!



Retiring OSU Professor and Extension Horticulturist Lynn Long, left, accepts a plaque recognizing 29 years' contributions to the Mid-Columbia agricultural industry from CGFG Board President Jeff Heater. The exchange occurred at the Dave and Karen Cooper Orchard during the June 1 Pre-Harvest Cherry Tour in The Dalles. Long's final day was June 30.

Farm safety project

Continued from Page 1

traffic congestion, pesticide application and more. To educate the public on general farming issues, the committee is exploring creating a rack card for local shops with recommended cycling routes and a guide to farming activity during different months. Possible new road signage is being explored.

Any CGFG member who would to suggest farm safety projects can call Executive Director Mike Doke at (541) 387-4769, or email cgfg2@hrecn.net.

CGFG weather network

Continued from Page 1

Updated software will be released shortly that will allow all CGFG members set alarms on any station for a small monthly fee.

Ten of the new stations are located in Hood River County, with two in Wasco County.

Each weather station base costs \$2,400. However, a purchase of 10 or more stations at once lowers the cost to \$1,716. CGFG will provide five years' maintenance on each new station.

Any grower interested in installing a new station should call CGFG at 541-387-4769 (or email at cgfg2@hrecn.net). The proposed site will be reviewed by Cascade Weather LLC, the Hood River company that works on the project.



Labor, immigration remain top concerns

Labor has been a big issue already in 2017, with local growers participating in several Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' workshops focused on immigration concerns, the H-2A labor program and detailed I-9 information.

The discussions have identified local resources to assist with growers and workers.

Here's a list of contacts:

Workers – Immigration Counseling

Service (ICS), a non-profit with a Hood River office. MariRuth Petzing is lead attorney. ICS can be reached at 541-399-8029.

Employers/Property Owners – Tim Bernasek, Farm Employment Attorney, Dunn Carney LLP, 503-242-9608, tbernasek@dunnearney.com, can help growers understand their rights with interacting with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

I-9 Issues – Roberta Gruber, Oregon Farm Bureau FEELDs Director, can

provide detailed information on how to properly complete the employment form and records retention. Gruber's available at 503-399-1701 and roberta@oregonfb.org.

Immigration Resources – Proactive tools for workers are available by contacting Sarah Kellems at 509-637-0771 and swk@gorge.net, who can provide documents for preparing for immigration enforcement action, creating a family preparedness plan, preparing for an arrest or detention, and avoiding immigration fraud.

Oregon Farm Bureau offers ICE Primer

Oregon Farm Bureau has created an Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) primer. It's a good summary of how to be prepared. The full primer is available here: <http://www.cgfg.org/images/pdf/OFB-ICE-Primer-March-2017.pdf>

At the workplace, develop a clear company policy regarding who can grant access to your property and post signs directing visitors to report to the office and/or provide a cell phone number on the sign that a visitor may use to contact the appropriate representative.

Workers should be instructed that they must not flee from an ICE agent, that they may not grant permission for any government agent to enter your property, and that the only question they must answer is their name. Suggest workers carry an immigration card to help communicate their rights to an ICE agent, an example can be found at right.

IMPORTANT NOTE:** This information is a general overview of the legal issues discussed herein and should not be considered legal advice, readers are urged to consult with legal counsel for precise answers to individual questions and the application of these legal principles to their individual situations. *Oregon Farm Bureau acknowledges New York Farm Bureau's research and analysis which served as the basis for this Primer.**

OFB IMMIGRATION RIGHTS CARD

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I am handing you this card because I do not wish to speak with you or have further contact with you. Please be informed that I choose to exercise my right to remain silent and to refuse to answer your questions. If I am detained, I request that I immediately be allowed to contact an attorney. I will exercise my right to refuse to sign anything until I am allowed to speak to an attorney.

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Stay up-to-date via CGFG email list

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers wants to keep its members on top of important topics that may need attention.

We are creating an email newsletter that will be able to quickly inform the agricultural community on issues and topics of importance.

To receive these email notices, please send an email address to cgfg2@hrecn.net to be added to the distribution list.



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Grant boosts migrant safety, health training

The Next Door, Inc. has received a grant from Migrant Clinicians Network to help educate farm workers on occupational health and safety.

The Next Door's Nuestra Comunidad Sana (Our Healthy Community) staff has been trained to provide free training to agricultural workers in Spanish on four topics that can help protect all workers: heat stress, ladder safety, safety with chemicals and worker rights.

Comunidad Sana offers a one to two-

hour training in the Hood River County area.

Its goal is to provide 300 hours of training before the end of September 2017.

Comunidad Sana staff can meet workers at the work site; be sure to contact at one the emails below more details to follow if interested. The group is raffling off jugs of water to participants in efforts to promote hydration.

The Next Door has over two dozen pro-

grams and we envision a supportive community where all children and families are safe, healthy, and valued. We are happy to share community resources with our workers as part of this grant.

Anyone interested in occupational health and safety training for their workers in Spanish please contact Joel Pelayo, Community Health Worker, at joelp@nextdoorinc.org or Toña Sanchez, Community Health Worker, at tonas@nextdoorinc.org.

Program seeks orchardists

The Next Door, Inc.'s Economic Development program is seeking orchardists with an interest in succession planning.

The program is investigating whether there is need or interest from orchard owners to get assistance in finding experienced orchard workers (either one family, or cooperatives of 2-3 families) to run their orchards.

The agency is seeking orchards that could be leased by those interested in entering the occupation, and can help develop business plans, loans, lease agreements, etc. For more information, contact Jody O'Connor at jodyo@nextdoorinc.org or 541-436-0313.

MCMC focuses on labor care

Mid-Columbia Medical Center Occupational Health recognizes the need for labor care, and staffs one doctor at its The Dalles clinic five days a week through the harvest. It has time set aside for injured workers every day through harvest.

MCMC does not offer a walk-in clinic – it's important to call 541-296-7811 to confirm availability. Same-day access is available. The clinic is located at 1815 E. 19th St., The Dalles. There is Spanish-speaking staff in all areas of the clinic.

In case of emergency, contact the MCMC Emergency Department at 541-296-7220 if there is any question regarding proper transfer of an injured worker.

Labor recruiting app available

A new mobile app that connects employers with labor – Ganaz – is seeking growers to try it for no charge.

The Ganaz app enables growers to connect with large numbers of workers to recruit, engage and manage a bilingual workforce from a smartphone. The app is available free at the Apple App Store and Google Play.

Employers can post jobs and contact last year's workers. It can translate messages to send straight to the workforce.

More information is available at ganazapp.com, and by contacting hannah@ganazaap.com.

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Sell, buy trees, more

CGFG is offering members a free web site to buy, sell and trade pear, cherry and apple trees, along with other agriculture-related items.

The Trading Post is easy to find: Just visit cgfg.org and scroll to the bottom of the main page for a "Trading Post" link. To list items on the site, email the information to cgfg2@hrecn.net.

Items will remain on the site for 30 days.

ODOT schedules bridge work

Agricultural users relying on US Route 30 between The Dalles and Mosier should be prepared for traffic interruptions this summer – three 1920s-era bridges are scheduled for repair and replacement at Chenoweth Creek, Dry Canyon and Mosier Creek. The projects are managed by Oregon Department of Transportation.

Chenoweth Creek Bridge, located west of The Dalles, will be replaced. Pile-driving will create up to 20-minuted delays in July, but the struc-

ture will be closed Aug. 1-21.

Dry Canyon and Mosier Creek bridges will be rehabilitated. Up to 20-minute delays can occur at each when scaffolding is erected in late July and removed in early November. In late November, deck resurfacing may cause delays of up to an hour.

For more information, contact ODOT Community Liaison Abbey Driscoll at (541) 388-6068, abbey.driscoll@odot.state.or.us.



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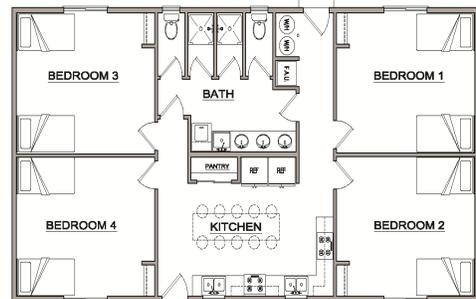
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