



# Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

October 2018

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

## CGFG Health Insurance Forum Oct. 17 at Pine Grove Grange

Health insurance options for Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' members will be reviewed at a membership meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 17. CGFG, working in conjunction with Oregon Business and Industry (OBI) and Aldrich Benefits, will host the 2-4 p.m. program at Pine Grove Grange.

In addition, OBI staff will outline the associations SAIF workers compensation program.

The meeting is a follow-up to membership survey to determine grower interest in offering health insurance to employees. An over-

whelming percentage of respondents – 83 percent – do not offer employee health insurance. Two-thirds of members who purchase their own insurance have individual plans for their families.

Ninety-six percent of responding members are interested in creating a member health insurance program, with lower premiums and better plan designs. The current CGFG insurance pool is small, but members can still see what's available through an association with OBI.

*Please see 'Insurance,' Page 6*

## Weather Network expanding

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Weather Network ([weather.cgfg.org](http://weather.cgfg.org)) has grown to 34 stations located across Wasco, Hood River and Klickitat counties. The web site's network map has recently been upgraded to improve use on mobile devices. Growers are able to set alarms on any of the stations at [beta.rainwise.net](http://beta.rainwise.net).

CGFG is in the process of ordering new stations for interested members. A 28 percent price break is available when CGFG buys new stations in bulk.

*Please see 'Weather,' Page 6*

## October event offers H-2A details

Labor shortages are a continuing issue for area farms, but one program – the H-2A visa – has helped growers facing domestic worker shortages to bring non-immigrant foreign workers here to fill seasonal orchard jobs.

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers is offering members the opportunity to learn about the H-2A visa during an open forum Wednesday, Oct. 17, at Pine Grove Grange. The meeting begins at noon and is expected to be completed before the CGFG Health Insurance Forum that afternoon (*see article above*).

The meeting is intended for growers considering H-2A and provide time to learn what's required before the 2019 growing season.

Representatives from WAFLA, Washington Growers League/masLabor and other groups will outline the steps needed to participate in H-2A, including contracts, transportation, housing, meals and wages.

H-2A has become an essential labor resource among CGFG growers and the greater Northwest. For instance, Washington sees one of the country's highest uses of H-2A labor and is expected to hire 30,000 workers during 2018, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

High costs are associated with hiring H-2A guest workers, but many growers have experienced a payoff: a legal and dependable workforce. For more information, contact CGFG at (541) 387-4769 or [cgfg2@hrecn.net](mailto:cgfg2@hrecn.net).

### CALENDAR

#### OCTOBER 2018

- 17 CGFG H-2A Open Forum, noon-2 p.m., Pine Grove Grange, Hood River, OR.
- 17 CGFG Group Health Insurance Meeting, 2-4 p.m. Pine Grove Grange, Hood River, OR.



# New AEZ rules take effect in 2019

**O**regon growers face new Application Exclusion Zone rules in the new year, with Oregon OSHA's adopted Worker Protection Standard changes taking effect Jan. 1, 2019.

OR-OSHA describes the new rules, adopted this summer, as ways to decrease potential pesticide exposure for workers and their families who live on farms.

The changes apply to outdoor applications.

The Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) is adjacent to – but outside of – the treated area itself. The zone surrounds and moves with spray equipment during applications; it must be free of all people other than appropriately trained and equipped pesticide handlers.

The rules establish different standards – and AEZs – for pesticides that require applicators to wear respirators and those that do not.

Among the new rules:



- The AEZ is 100 feet when the pesticide applicator is not required to use a respirator. People must stay out of the AEZ for an additional 15 minutes, either by staying indoors or evacuating.

- People have the option to remain indoors when pesticides not requiring a respirator is used (100-foot AEZ). Under this shelter-in-place option, all doors and windows must be shut, and air intakes turned off.

- The AEZ expands to 150 feet when the applicator is required to use a respirator. Full evacuation of all people is required – shelter-in-place is not allowed. Evacuation means removing everyone from the AEZ, though there are no provisions take them beyond the 150-foot AEZ zone (alternative housing is not required).

- In both instances, no one may re-enter the treated area for a minimum of 15 minutes after spray equipment has passed. Product labeling for re-entry must be followed.

### NOTIFICATION

Under the 100-foot, non-respirator AEZ,

there must be: notification of start and stop times of spraying; instructions to close windows, doors and air intakes; instruction to protect items from exposure; instructions to remain inside enclosed agriculture structures (homes and farm buildings) or remain evacuated for 15 minutes after spray equipment passes by; and, instructions on how to report pesticide drift.

Regarding the 150-foot AEZ defined by requiring the applicator to wear a respirator, notification includes everything listed for the smaller 100-foot AEZ plus a rule to provide instructions to remain evacuated for 15 minutes after spray equipment passes by.

An information station must be provided to announce pending pesticide applications for an AEZ that contains agriculture labor housing.

If drift contacts labor housing areas or other structures used by employees, employers must ensure that it is properly cleaned with a minimum of exposure to workers or housing occupants.

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~  
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## OFFICE HOURS

*Mon-Fri 8am-4:30pm*  
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[www.hrsupply.com](http://www.hrsupply.com)

## 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](mailto:cgfg2@hrecn.net) to be added to the distribution list.

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# Insurance

*Continued from Page 1*

October's meeting will review insurance options through OBI and Aldrich Benefits. If you are interested in exploring this insurance for your operation, please complete the insurance census forum available at [cgfg.org](http://cgfg.org) no later than Monday, Oct. 15.

Creating individual association health plans is a significant challenge. However, working with programs like OBI's HealthChoice may help agricultural employers leverage competitive rates.

In addition to insurance, OBI staff will be present to discuss its CompSAFE workers' compensation program.

OBI is a statewide business association advocating for advancing business in Oregon. CGFG explored a variety of health insurance programs, opting to work with Aldrich Benefits, which is associated with OBI's HealthChoice.

To register, contact CGFG at (541) 387-4769 or [cgfg2@hrecn.net](mailto:cgfg2@hrecn.net).

# Weather

*Continued from Page 1*

Each weather station is \$2,400. However, a purchase of 10 or more stations at once lowers the individual price to \$1,716. New stations can be installed at current IFPnet sites. Growers will need to place a concrete pad and purchase a metal tower for new locations.

If interested, call CGFG at 541-387-4769 or email at [cgfg2@hrecn.net](mailto:cgfg2@hrecn.net).

## FIELD REPRESENTATIVE

Stadelman Fruit, is seeking to fill a full-time Field Representative position in Hood River. This person serves as the primary contact between management and our grower base. Individuals provide Horticultural assistance, establish crop estimates, monitor fruit maturity and coordinate harvest. Preferred education is a B.S. Degree in agriculture. Specific job experience may be substituted. This salaried position includes wages DOE, insurance and 401(k). Please send resume to [Larry@Stadelmanfruit.com](mailto:Larry@Stadelmanfruit.com) or 3366 Stadelman Drive, Hood River, Or. 97031. All inquiries handled with confidentiality.



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Thursday, Nov. 1

**City of Wasco Event Center**

Friday, Nov. 2

All Events are open 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

**\*AG Producers and Businesses:** Although these events are free, pre-registration is required. Call John Pitman at Stericycle Environmental Service, (360) 772-2838 or email [john.pitman@stericycle.com](mailto:john.pitman@stericycle.com).

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