



WASHINGTON RED RASPBERRY COMMISSION NEWS

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2014 Berry Workshops



Purposes

- What do growers need to know about Food Safety to protect themselves and their customers?
- What do growers need to know about federal Labor regulations to protect themselves and their workers?

Potential Attendees

- Farm owners and managers
- Food safety managers
- First Handlers
- Labor managers

Training By:

Morning Session - 9:30 am - Noon

Phil Schoening – Former Wilbur Ellis GAP consultant

- ◆ What's New and What's Next - FSMA
- ◆ Refresher on Food Safety plans
- ◆ How to survive a Food Safety audit

Afternoon Session - 1 pm - 4pm

Richard Longo, Director of Enforcement Western Region, Federal Dept. of Labor

Ruben Lugo, Agricultural Coordinator, Federal Dept. of Labor

- ◆ Labor laws (FLSA, H-2A and MSPA) and the issues they seek to address
- ◆ Practical ways for farmers to stay in line with the laws
- ◆ Real life issues encountered by DOL and some suggested solutions which can be implemented to prevent problems from occurring
- ◆ Practices that other agricultural employers have incorporated

Lunch will be provided for attendees of the morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch is at noon.

Locations:

Prosser - March 5

WSU- IAREC
24106 N. Bunn Road

Vancouver - March 6

WSU - Clark Co. Extension
1919 NE 78th Street

Mt. Vernon - February 25

WSU-NWREC
16650 Hwy. 536

Lynden - February 26

NW WA Fairgrounds - Rotary Bldg.
1775 Front Street

RSVP is required!

We need to get a good head count for each location to order lunch and request enough seating. Please RSVP the number of attendees for your business by emailing jpeteron@centurytel.net or call 509-266-4300 by **3 days** prior to the session you plan to attend. If you have any questions please contact us at the information below.

Please note: The commissions will fund only 2 employees per farm/company. Every employee over the limit will incur a \$20 charge. Please let us know when RSVP ing how many will be attending.

Calendar

Contact the WRRRC office for information on each of these upcoming educational opportunities

February 19 - Botrytis Workshop - WRRRC

April 9 - WRRRC Board Meeting - Puyallup

May 11-13 - IRO Conference - Chuzhou, China

September 10 - WRRRC Board Meeting - Lynden

October 29 - WRRRC Board Meeting - Lynden

December 4 - 5 - WSU Small Fruit Workshop, Lynden Ag Show, WRRRC Bd. Mtg. Lynden

Efficiency in Drip Irrigation: Principles and Practices - March 14 – Lynden WA

A 4.5 hour workshop is planned that will focus on drip irrigation principles and practices. Four regional and national experts will cover a variety of topics that include: **System Design, System Components, Irrigation Efficiency and Technologies in Small Fruit Production, Irrigation System Operation and Maintenance.** Pre-registration required @ <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/edu/irrigation/tickets.html>. \$20 before March 3rd, \$25, after.

Washington Red Raspberry

Commission

1796 Front Street
Lynden, WA 98264
Phone: 360-354-8767
Fax: 360-354-0948
Email: info@red-raspberry.org
www.red-raspberry.org
www.raspberryinfo.com

Henry Bierlink, Executive Director

Board of Directors

Jon Maberry, President
Ralph Minaker, Vice-Pres.
Kristie Clark, Treasurer
Erin Thoeny
Randy Honcoop
Glenn Sakuma
George Hoffman
Ted Maxwell

*Promotion, Fair Trade, and
Research assistance for
Growers*

Chris Benedict
WSU Whatcom
1000 N. Forest
Bellingham, WA 98225

News Notes

NPRC Update

WRRRC has been adjusting to having a national raspberry partner to work with as we advance the interests of our raspberry growers. The National Processed Raspberry Council (NPRC) has been functioning since June, 2013 and has established an aggressive promotional program based on solid health based research. The research projects and promotional efforts are funded by a 1 cent per pound assessment on processed raspberries grown in or imported into the US. This provides a budget of approximately \$1.4 million for investment into raspberry promotion.

WRRRC Proposes Several Projects for Funding under WA State Specialty Crop Block Grants

One of the dramatic improvements of the Farm Bill was the continuation of a Block Grant program to support "specialty crops" like berry production. Federal funds are distributed proportionally to states with significant specialty crop production. Washington State is in the top 5 in the nation in this category resulting in over \$3 million coming to support issues facing growers administered by the State Department of Ag. The WRRRC is already participating in SCBG funded projects and is proposing several new projects for funding this year.

New Raspberry Varieties Nearing Release

The investments made by the WRRRC to support plant breeding programs at WSU, USDA/ARS, and Ag Canada show promise. Cascade Harvest, a WSU variety released this winter, produces very high quality, good flavored fruit with very good root rot tolerance and RBDV resistance. There are several other varieties that are attracting interest as they progress through our machine harvest and grower trials. We contracted with Peerbolt Crop Management to carefully track and evaluate the most promising varieties in these trials. Tom's evaluation can be found at <http://www.berriesnw.com/SFU/2014/01-SFU01-02-14.pdf> or contact the WRRRC for a copy. Make sure you are subscribing to the Small Fruit Update so that you stay current with the latest berry news.

Ag Agencies Conduct Listening Sessions for Specialty Crop Growers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) want to hear from Washington's specialty crop growers. In late February, the agencies will be conducting cooperative listening sessions in Wenatchee and Mt. Vernon to gather input about the effectiveness of crop insurance and insurance-type programs available to producers.

The federal government subsidizes crop insurance, which is offered through private crop insurance agents and is managed by USDA's Risk Management Agency. The USDA Farm Service Agency provides production risk protection to farmers who grow crops for which insurance is unavailable. "Many of the state's diverse crops are eligible for coverage under the Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program or NAP," explained Olson. "Fewer growers are currently participating in this program than we would expect."

"We have a great climate in Washington that has helped create a robust and thriving agriculture industry," WSDA Director Bud Hover said. "But just one weather disaster can devastate a ranch or farm. We want to hear from the ag community whether the tools in place to help them manage that risk are meeting their needs."

The sessions will be held at Mt Vernon, February 20th and Wenatchee, February 24th. Both sessions are from 9:30 to 11 am. Contact the WRRRC for registration information.

International Raspberry Organization Meets in China

The WRRRC is a member of an international association of raspberry growers that meets every other year to discuss raspberry production and how we can best share information to strengthen the industry. President Jon Maberry and past president Rob Dhaliwal plan to participate in the May 11-13 conference in China this year. These meetings began in Chile in 1998. More information about the IRO is available at <http://www.internationalraspberry.net/>

WRRRC Board Changes

Our board was restructured earlier this month when the changes to our governing documents took effect. We dropped board membership from 11 to 7 and also added up to two non-voting Advisory Board members. The district boundaries were also redrawn reflecting the shifts in production over the past 30 years. Jon Maberry was elected President for 2014 replacing 6 year President Adam Enfield. Ralph Minaker remains Vice-President and Kristie Clark our Treasurer. Steve Midboe accepted one of the Advisory Board seats. The Board is still considering others to fill the remaining seat.