



WASHINGTON RED RASPBERRY COMMISSION NEWS

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2015 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 Labor regulations to protect themselves and their workers?

Attendees: *Farm owners and managers, Food safety managers, First Handlers, Labor managers*

Training By: *Karen Killinger, WSU; Tisa Soeteber, WA L & I; representative of the US Dept. of Labor*

Topics:

- ◆ Food Safety Culture
- ◆ What's New and What's Next - FSMA
- ◆ Water Testing/Treatment
- ◆ Open Forum on water requirements
- ◆ Refresh on Federal labor laws
- ◆ Worker Safety
- ◆ Training Videos and ideas
- ◆ Piecework: the law and how it will be enforced

Prosser - March 23

9 am - 5pm

WSU- IAREC
24106 N. Bunn Road

Mt. Vernon - March 25

9 am - 5pm

WSU-NWREC
16650 Hwy. 536

Battle Ground - Mar. 24

9 am - 5pm

Manor Grange #1101
17901 NE 72nd Ave

Lynden - March 26

9 am - 5pm

NW WA Fair - Rotary Bldg.
1775 Front Street

RSVP is required!

We need to get a good head count for each location to order lunches and arrange enough seating. **Please RSVP** the number of attendees for your farm by emailing heather@centurytel.net, calling 509-266-4300, or registering via PayPal **3 days** prior to the session you plan to attend. There is a \$15 charge for members of the berry commissions. The workshops are open to other farmers @ the full cost of \$30 per person. [Register](#)

Supreme Court Case on Farm Labor Pending

Berry farmers need to pay close attention to the implications of ANA LOPEZ DEMETRIO and FRANCISCO EUGENIO PAZ vs. SAKUMA BROTHERS FARMS INC., a case to be heard March 17th before the WA Supreme Court. A decision is expected by June. Advice from the WA Grower's League can be found at the WRRRC [website](#).

Labor Update - Joan Yoder, WRRRC Education/Communication Chair

As many of you know, President Obama took action last November to allow as many as 5 million immigrants to avoid deportation and work legally in the USA. This plan has stalled in the courts. Whether you agree or disagree with the plan, there are important issues as an employer that you need to understand.

Deferred Action for Students (DACA 2.0) and Deferred Action for Parent of Children (DAPA) will allow these individuals to seek temporary designation for a three year period. They will be eligible for work permits, travel permits and Social Security numbers.

The issue for employers is that to qualify for these programs, your employee must prove physical presences in the United States since January 1, 2010. The best way for them to do that is with employment history. You may be approached by your employee for proof of employment documents. Is this a problem? It could be.

Knowledge that your employee is unauthorized to work is the root of the problem. By your employee coming to you asking for work history in regards to DACA or DAPA, you now have knowledge that the employee is not legal to work. It is also important to note, that the employee may need employment history for a number of reasons – getting a loan, buying furniture, etc. You do not want to discuss DACA/DAPA with your employees.

There are four steps to getting in trouble: 1) There needs to be an audit. 2) The audit has to find the employee who is not legal to work. 3) There needs to be actual or constructive knowledge on your part. 4) The government can prove that you knew the employee was undocumented. Most of you will be lucky and not make it to step 1.

If your employee qualifies for DACA/DAPA once the program is enacted, the employee gets Employment Authorization Documents (EAD) and a valid Social Security number. Now you know that the employee was illegal and lied to you. What can or must you do? You *can* fire them because they lied to you. Whatever you decide to do, you *must* be consistent with all employees. It is a good idea if you have a written company policy.

In regards to your I-9, the employee will have a work permit and a SSN that states "valid for work only with DHS authorization." On the I-9 write "Qualified for Deferred Action". The employee will check the box "An alien authorized to work until..." The work permit will have an expiration date. The work permit and the SS card will be needed for documentation.

You might want to contact your attorney, or a labor attorney, for answers to your specific questions.

Washington Red Raspberry

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

News Notes

NPRC Update

As the Council reaches the mid-way point in the fiscal year, a number of activities have been completed or will soon be completed that continue to build a knowledge-based foundation for future decisions. The Marketing and Research Committees are actively engaged in overseeing and directing programs. During the winter, both consumer and trade surveys were completed, with an industry survey to follow shortly. An updated and revised user-friendly website has been submitted to USDA for review and approval before going live. The Salt & Company Marketing Team is assembling an approved message database for use during communications with key decision-makers and health communicators. Plans to bring a small group of bloggers and print media representatives to Lynden this summer to experience the harvest are underway. Trade education and outreach is ongoing and increasing. These activities and more will be presented during the Council's meeting on May 19, 2015 at Semiahmoo Resort. Contact Tom Krugman for more information at 354-0948, or by e-mail at tkrugman@redrazz.org. The Council's newsletter is now in an electronic format. If you are not on the distribution list and want to be, either contact Tom or send an e-mail to newsletter@redrazz.org, requesting to be added to the list.

WRRC Board Changes

Our board was restructured in December with Jon Maberry re-elected President for 2015. Ralph Minaker completed six years of service. Thank you Ralph! Steve Midboe and Joan Yoder were re-appointed to the Advisory Board seats. Randy Honcoop was elected Vice-President and Joan Yoder our Treasurer. The Board is considering candidates to fill the open seat in District #1. Interested growers are encouraged to contact a board member.

Research Update - Randy Honcoop, Research Chair - ranhonfarm@gmail.com , 360-961-2300

For the 2015 crop year, your raspberry commission continues to invest heavily in production research with the goal of finding solutions to our challenges in the field.

Developing new cultivars/varieties is the single largest area of need in our industry and that is where we are focusing a large percentage of our efforts and funding again this year. While this has been a long and slow process, there are a number of new selections that show potential of being replacements for Meeker when they are released. In the meantime, we will push as hard as possible to have a better variety that is publicly available in the near future.

Other priority areas that we are funding research in are SWD management, fruit rot and fungicide resistance concerns, soil health management of long term raspberry production, fumigation, weed control in new plantings, and with our new berry physiologist, Lisa DeVetter, we will begin to look at plant competition issues and also alternate year production as compared to what we do now.

As you go through this growing season you may recognize some other things that might need some research in order to find solutions. Jot them down and let me know via e-mail, or phone call, so that our research committee can consider how to address them in the coming years. We want to hear from you so we can make it happen.

WRRC 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 \$4 million coming to support issues facing growers administered by the State Department of Ag. The WRRC is already participating in SCBG funded projects and is proposing several new projects for funding this year.

Efficiency in Drip Irrigation: Principles and Practices - March 6 – Lynden, WA

A 6 hour workshop is planned that will focus on drip irrigation principles and practices. Regional and national experts will cover a variety of topics that include: **Irrigation Scheduling, Weather Patterns and Water Supply, Soil Moisture relationships, Soil Moisture measuring technology, Single and Double Drip lines.** Pre-registration required @ <http://whatcom.wsu.edu/ag/edu/irrigation/tickets.html>. \$25 registration fee.

Calendar

April 8 - WRRC Board Meeting - *Puyallup*

May 18-19 - NPRC Board Meeting - *Semiahmoo*

September 9 - WRRC Board Meeting - *Lynden*

October 28 - WRRC Board Meeting - *Lynden*

December 3 - 4 - WSU Small Fruit Workshop, Lynden Ag Show, WRRC Bd. Mtg. *Lynden*