



WASHINGTON BLUEBERRY COMMISSION

Serving the Blueberry Industry of Washington

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April, 2010

Washington Blueberry Commission Quarterly meeting

The WBC will host its second quarterly meeting on April 21 at its office near Eltopia, WA. (For more information contact the WBC office at 509 266 4300.) Items on the agenda is a presentation on the recent North American Blueberry Council and US Highbush Council meetings; new and expanded promotional activities, future production estimates for Washington and other growing regions, Research Committee report and status of Washington blueberry food safety efforts.

Directions: From Pasco take I-182 to the Road 68 exit, head north for 16 miles to a T intersection with Ringold Road, turn right, travel 0.5 miles to the first house on the right.

2010 Promotional Efforts

We're in the process of updating the www.superblues.net web site for the 2010 harvest. If you're not listed on the site as a u-pick source and would like to be, please let us know. And if you have changes to your current listing, or would like to be taken off the list, let us know that, too.

In the next month or so, we'll be preparing to once again send out Farmers Market/Fruit

Stand promotional packets to growers who sign up for the program. We sent out packets for the first time last year, and the response was great. Packets will again have "Fresh Washington Blueberries" banners, blue pennant strings, blue balloons and CDs containing printable flyers and "quick tips" handouts for use at your booth/stand. Look for a letter from us to get signed up, or let us know now by contacting Aria Brookshire at: aria@centurytel.net.

Two Positions on WBC Board Available.

Positions 3 and 4, are becoming open on July 1. The term for the two positions run from through July 30, 2013.

If you are a producer of blueberries, a resident of Washington, they you are eligible to be nominated. To be nominated you must call WSDA at 360 902 1802 between 10:00 am and 11:00 am on April 16. One can be nominated by written petition signed by five or more producers of blueberries. This letter must be postmarked by April 21, 2010.

Washington Blueberry Acreage

The WBC has collected information from a number of growers and handlers over that past several months to get an estimate on number of bearing and nonbearing acres in the state. The following table is the Commission's estimate of total acres in the state as of the end of 2009. It is important to remember that much of our blueberries are nonbearing or are not bearing to the full potential. Included with the acreage estimate is a projection of *potential* production if all acres remain in production and are fully bearing.

| Location | Planted Acres | Estimated Yield/acre | Estimated Production Pounds |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Eastern Washington | 3,180 | 12,500 | 39,750,000 |
| Whatcom | 3,500 | 8,000 | 28,000,000 |
| Skagit | 1,500 | 8,000 | 12,000,000 |
| Lewis | 300 | 8,000 | 2,400,000 |
| Other | 1,000 | 8,000 | 8,000,000 |
| | 9,480 | | 90,150,000 |

The production information is a long term projection. There are a number of variables that will influence the actual number. This projection is being provided to you for your planning purposes

Spotted Wing Drosophila

There has been a tremendous amount of attention focused on spotted wing drosophila recently. Certainly this insect pest has the potential to cause great damage to soft fruit, particularly berries, in Western Washington and possibly Eastern Washington. The Commission has funded work with WSU's Lynell Tanigoshi to address management of this pest. Based on preliminary results from Dr. Tanigoshi, we believe this pest can be adequately controlled with a combination of close monitoring and well timed application of specific insecticides. There are several currently registered products that appear to have efficacy against this pest.

Dr. Tanigoshi plans to have a set of pest management guidelines available to the Commission for distribution to growers in advance of the treatment season.

Because growers may be using insecticides that they have not applied before and used later in the season that normal, caution must be exercised regarding pre-harvest intervals. Additionally, if your blueberries are being exported, it is important that you know the maximum pesticide residue levels for the country you intent to export.

Spotted Wing Drosophila Workshops:

April 22: 9:00 am – Noon
Lynden Fire district #3, Meeting Room

April 28: 9:00 am– Noon
WSU Vancouver

April 30: 9:00 am – Noon
Mt Vernon, WSU Research & Extension Center