



Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers

November 2016

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

Fruit Growers to gather Dec. 8

Columbia Gorge Fruit Grower's Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, Dec. 8, 5 p.m. at Mt. Hood Winery. All members and their spouses are invited to attend.

Speakers include CGFG lobbyist Amanda Dalton, who will address 2017 Legislative issues. Erin Roby will give a short overview of H-2A labor. The meeting also will include a vote on the 2017 CGFG budget.

The Fruit association's Nomination Committee has submitted two names to the 2017 Board of Directors – Wade Root and David Ortega.

2016 ANNUAL MEETING

5 p.m., Mt. Hood Winery, Pine Grove

Wade and David are current CGFG Board directors. Board Director Brad Pickering's seat also is up for election.

Additional Board director nominations may be submitted by petition with five signatures from members in good standing.

Petitions are due to CGFG by Nov. 18, 2016. Positions include one from Hood River County, one from Wasco County and one at-large.

Continuing Board directors are Jennifer Euwer, Paul Lavoie, Bill Anderson and Erin Roby.

CGFG seeks contact details for outreach

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

We are creating a distribution list to quickly inform the agricultural community on issues and topics of importance.

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

Please feel free to update any other new contact information at the same email address.

Association holds 2017 Board nominations

CGFG Board member nominations may be submitted by petition with five signatures from members in good standing.

PETITION FOR NOMINATION

We submit the name of _____ for nomination to the 2017

Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Board of Directors. The above named is nominated for the (select one):

Wasco County Position (reside in Wasco County):

Hood River Position (reside in Hood River):

At-large Position (reside in Wasco, Hood River, Skamania, Klickitat or Sherman County)

The following signees are members in good standing in Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

*This petition must be submitted to Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers by **November 18, 2016.***

CALENDAR

November 2016

- 29 Oregon OSHA Worker Protection Standards Public Hearing, 11 a.m., Pine Grove Grange.

December 2016

- 8 CGFG Annual Meeting, 5 p.m. social hour, 6 p.m. business meeting, Mt. Hood Winery, 2882 Van Horn Drive, Pine Grove.



Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Annual Meeting



CGFG Annual Meeting
Thursday, December 8, 2016

5 p.m. - Social Hour

Appetizers will be served

6 p.m. - Business Meeting

Mt. Hood Winery

2882 Van Horn Dr., Hood River/Pine Grove

Please R.S.V.P. no later than Friday, December 2.

Call the CGFG Office at 541.387.4769 or e-mail cgfg2@gorge.net

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brad Pickering - Chairman
Wade Root - Secretary
David Ortega - Treasurer
Bill Anderson
Jennifer Euwer
Paul Lavoie
Erin Roby
~
Mike Doke - Executive Director

OFFICE HOURS

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Input needed for proposed WPS rules

New federal agricultural Worker Protection Standards (WPS) will take effect in 2017. Oregon OSHA, which administers and enforces the federal Environmental Protection Agency's WPS, has announced its proposed rules and has scheduled a November public hearing in Pine Grove.

The Nov. 29 public hearing begins at 11 a.m. at the Pine Grove Grange. It is the first of three WPS public hearings, with a Dec. 1 hearing in Woodburn and a Dec. 7 hearing in Medford scheduled. Oregon OSHA will take public comments until Dec. 14.

The state agency has proposed nine new Oregon Administrative Rules that reflect specific requirements for Oregon employers. The full text is on line at osha.oregon.gov/rules/making/Pages/proposed.aspx.

The agricultural community has expressed concern about a 100-foot application buffer – known as the Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) – around residential and other structures. Oregon OSHA responded by proposing a “shelter in place” alternative that allows occupants remain in protected spaces within an AEZ during application.

Worker Protection Standards Public Hearing

11 a.m., November 29, 2016, Pine Grove Grange

Protected spaces are defined as tight, solid structures, and the “shelter in place” proposal requires notification, training and drift-control measures.

Two other proposals would maintain Oregon OSHA's more protective requirements related to respiratory protection and emergency eye-washes.

Trainers of WPS handlers in Oregon would be given an additional year to complete required EPA-approved Train-the-Trainer instruction.

Comments may be mailed to Department of Consumer and Business Services/Oregon OSHA, 3500 Winter Street NE, Salem OR 97301-3882, or emailed to tech.web@oregon.gov.

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WPS training scheduled

Newly revised Worker Protection standards require annual training of agricultural workers and pesticide handlers by qualified WPS trainers. A Train-the-Trainer event is scheduled in Hood River Thursday, Jan. 19, 2017 to help meet this requirement.

It will be held at Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Pre-registration is necessary and online at bit.ly/TTToregonWPS; registration deadline is Dec. 29. There is no cost. For more details, contact Cameron Hughes at (541) 737-6123.

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MCAREC committee to appoint '17 members

Mid-Columbia Agricultural Research and Extension Center (MCAREC) will appoint members to the MCAREC Advisory Board to advise on operations at Oregon State University's agricultural facility in Hood River.

MCAREC scientists specialize in research important to pear, cherry and apple growers. It strives to develop a solid base of objective scientific information that addresses the needs of the Pacific Northwest's fruit industry.

Members represent tree fruit production, packing houses and public officials. Terms are up to three years. Appointments will be made by the Director of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Oregon State University, but interested Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers members can contact the CGFG office to have your contact information forward to OSU.

Research and Extension faculty, search staff, technicians and administrative staff work at the center. Visiting professors, scientists, graduate and undergraduate students also participate in research activities. Most recently, researchers have focused on entomology, horticulture and postharvest physiology disciplines.

Advisory Board members help identify research programs, facilities, priorities and resources at MCAREC. Two regular meetings are expected annually.

MCAREC conducts research in the agricultural, biological, social and environmental sciences to benefit Oregon.

Highway 30 bridge project may affect ag traffic this summer

Three 1920s era bridges on US Route 30 between The Dalles and Mosier are scheduled for repair and replacement in July-August 2017.

Oregon Department of Transportation is seeking input from agricultural users before limiting access to these structures.

The Chenoweth Creek Bridge west of The Dalles will be replaced, creating a two- to three-week bridge closure.

Dry Canyon Creek and Mosier Creek bridges will be repaired; they will remain open but traffic delays may occur.

Additionally, ODOT is considering reconfiguring Mosier Creek Bridge to a single traffic lane.

For more information, contact Community Liaison Abbey Driscoll at (541) 388-6064, abbey.driscoll@odot.state.or.us, or Project Manager Brad DeHart at (541) 296-2215, bradley.k.dehart@odot.state.or.us.

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SAIF ag safety seminars coming to Gorge

SAIF Corporation has scheduled four Agricultural Safety Seminars in Hood River. The next half-day seminar will be Tuesday, Nov. 22 at Best Western Hood River Inn. A second half-day seminar will be held early in new year, Wednesday, Feb. 1, 2017, also at Best Western Hood River Inn.

The third and fourth seminars are in Spanish. They will be Tuesday, Jan. 31, 2017 at Fort Dalles Readiness Center in The Dalles and Thursday, Feb. 2, 2017 at Hood River Inn.

These are free, comprehensive safety trainings designed specifically for the agricultural industry. Although the seminars are designed for owners, operators, supervi-

sors, and foremen, anyone working in the agricultural industry or interested in farm safety and health is welcome to attend.

Small agricultural employers attending the seminar will meet one of the four requirements that exempt small agricultural operations from random OSHA inspections.

Topics include effective training strategies, safe pesticide handling, farm shop safety and more.

Registration is required and is available online at saif.com. Look for the Employer Guide link to get training information.

New BOLI posters available at CGFG

New BOLI posters for agricultural employers are in stock at Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers' office. The updated posters include new information about Oregon's minimum wage and employee rights.

They include all of the state and federal postings most agricultural employers must display.

These 12-in-1 two-sided laminated posters have English on one side and Spanish on the other. They are 39 inches wide by 27 inches tall.

New I-9s expected in new year

In August, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved a revised Form I-9 Employment Eligibility Verification, with a revised form scheduled to be published Nov. 22.

Employers may continue using the current version of Form I-9 with a revision date of 03/08/2013 until Jan. 21, 2017. After that date, previous versions of Form I-9 will be invalid.

Updated forms will be available at CGFG's office.



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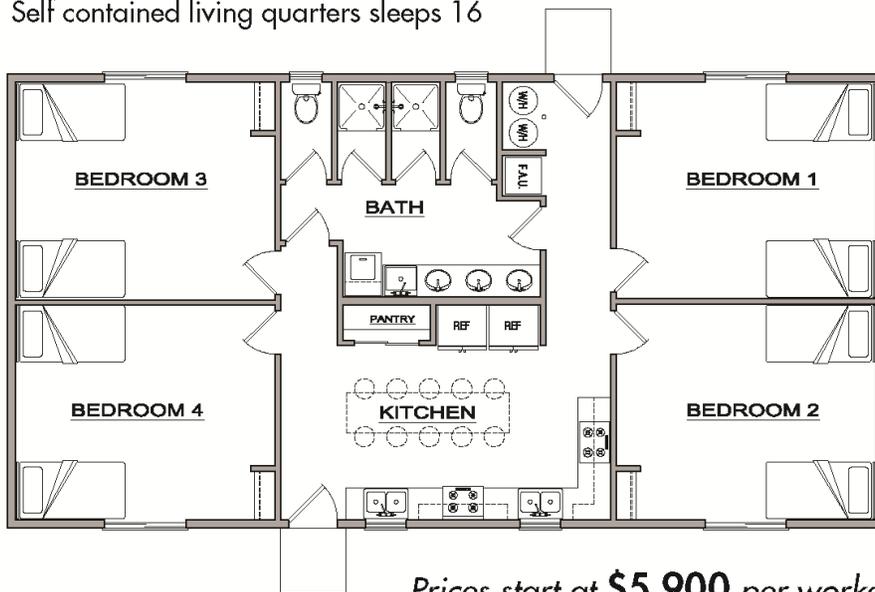
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Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Loan Program

\$30,000 loan limit - 3% interest rate - 10-year loan - annual payments

Qualifying projects: Farm worker housing - sprinklers - propane orchard heaters - frost fans - projects that address air and water quality - sprayer adaption

Call or visit the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers office for an application—this program is limited to Hood River County growers

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