

Washington

Apple Commission warily eyes export challenges

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

ELLENSBURG, Wash. — The state's apple industry faces challenges around the globe as it tries to increase exports, according to Todd Fryhover, president of the Washington Apple Commission.

He discussed the issue at an Oct. 20 commission meeting in Ellensburg, Wash.

Asia, including China, is the commission's primary target for increasing Washington apple exports.

China produced 14 million metric tons of apples in 1995, 24 million tons in 2005 and 43.1 million tons in 2015. This year's production is pegged at 43.8 million metric tons, compared with 4.5 million grown by the U.S., the No. 2 producer in the world. With a population of 1.4



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Todd Fryhover, president of the Washington Apple Commission.

billion, China consumes most of its apple production, Fryhover said.

However, "China will continue to be in our grill as far as exports," he said. China ramped up exports

"When we reach 100 million metric tons in world production, it will be more difficult to differentiate ourselves in the world market. Organics will be one way."

Todd Fryhover, president, Washington Apple Commission.

from 2002 to 2008 but since then has increased domestic consumption and slowed exports, he said. It's a trend likely to continue, but China still exports a lot of apples, he said.

About 83 percent of China's apple crop goes to fresh market versus processing, he said.

In Europe and elsewhere, U.S. apple exports continue to face headwinds.

The continued Russian ban on western produce costs Washington 500,000, 40-pound boxes of apple ex-

ports annually and, more significantly, blocks Polish and European apple exports into Russia, shifting those apples to the Middle East and Asia.

The Russian ban is causing "real issues" with Poland and France, and the Italians are "scared" of Poland, Fryhover said.

Brexit, Britain's vote to leave the European Union, is problematic in that France is the largest supplier of apples to Britain, he said.

France, under pressure from the Green movement, is slowing apple production,

Italy is stable and Poland is increasing, he said. European apple consumption is declining, he said.

The Food Safety Modernization Act, the strong dollar compared to some foreign currencies, market access issues and trade issues all affect Washington apple exports, Fryhover said.

Both major presidential candidates say they oppose the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which is not good for apple exports, and one candidate wants to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement, "which is probably the stupidest thing I've heard in my life as far as apples," he said.

Production in Michigan, Canada and Mexico is up, which competes with Washington exports, he said, and Washington has a large crop.

"When we reach 100 million metric tons in world production, it will be more difficult to differentiate ourselves in the world market. Organics will be one way," he said. "It's an advantage we need to capture."

Organic apples are 8.7 percent of the Washington fresh crop and growing, Fryhover said.

Club or managed varieties and the new Cosmic Crisp variety will also attract foreign buyers, he said.

Cosmic Crisp, to be planted commercially next spring, may reach 15 million boxes in the next eight or nine years, he said.

As many Cosmic Crisp trees will be planted in 15 months as Jazz and Ambrosia trees were planted in 15 years, said West Mathison, president of Stemilt Growers LLC.



Matthew Weaver/Capital Press File

Washington State University graduate student Ryan Kowalski feeds starch into an extruder in the food processing lab in Pullman, Wash. WSU and the University of Idaho will offer a food extrusion course to processing companies Nov. 30-Dec. 1.

Pulses focus of extrusion food processing course

More companies using ingredients for protein, fiber

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

Processors will learn how to use more pulses in food products during an upcoming course on the basics of extrusion.

Extrusion is commonly used in the food industry for items such as puffed snack foods, cereals and pet foods. Rotating screws force raw ingredients through an opening. When it comes out, the food is cut to specified lengths, according to Washington State University, which is offering the course with the University of Idaho.

The course will focus on pulse ingredients such as peas, lentils and chickpeas as part of the United Nations International Year of Pulses, said Girish Ganjyal, WSU

Online

<http://bit.ly/2eDVImlq>

Extension food processing specialist.

"With more awareness in the public about pulses as a source of nutritional ingredients, more and more people are trying to use (them) in extruded products," Ganjyal said.

Pulses have no known allergens, are a natural source of protein and fiber and are low in fat, Ganjyal said.

Increased use of pulses will benefit the farmers who grow them, Ganjyal said.

This is the second year of the course. Ganjyal plans to offer it annually.

Eighteen of 25 slots for the workshop were already filled the week of Oct. 24.

Registration is \$150 per person, with a group rate of \$125 per person for companies sending three or more people.

Study forecasts shift in irrigation needs

Report due to lawmakers next month

By DON JENKINS
Capital Press

Summer water supplies in the Columbia River Basin will drop by about 10 percent by 2035, causing farmers to plant earlier and adjust their mix of crops to maintain production, according to a study to be presented to Washington lawmakers.

The Washington State University report, due out next month, attempts to weigh complex factors to forecast Eastern Washington's water supply and demand 20 years from now.

Researchers foresee warmer weather making rivers higher in the spring and lower in the summer.

Crops will mature earlier and need less water in the summer, reducing overall demand in Washington for irrigation water by 7 percent, even assuming no reduction in irrigated acres, according to the projections.

"Overall, we would anticipate agriculture using water more efficiently to produce as much or more," said Chad Kruger, director of WSU's agricultural research center in Mount Vernon.

Researchers caution that future demand also will be influenced by new technologies, food markets and innovative farmers. "We know farmers will do things differently than they have historically," Kruger said.

The report was commissioned by lawmakers and will update a 2011 forecast. The report has gone through several



Courtesy of Washington Department of Ecology

The Columbia River flows past White Bluffs in Benton County, Wash. A Washington State University study due out next month projects that summer water supplies in the Columbia River Basin will decline by 10 percent by 2035, but spring water supplies will increase and farmers will adapt.

drafts, but is now mostly finalized, Jonathan Yoder, director of the state's WSU-based Water Research Center, said on Oct. 27.

Agricultural uses historically account for about 7.5 percent of the entire Columbia-Snake River System's water supply, according to a table in the report.

Yoder said the projection that agriculture will demand less water in the future already has gotten attention. The projection is based on declining need, not supply, he said.

"If it happens, to the extent it happens, it will be because of adjustments," Yoder said. "There certainly may be pressure on agriculture in certain areas of the state in response to drought, but agriculture will tend to respond to mitigate the damage."

Researchers project that overall surface water supplies will increase by 11 percent a year across the entire Columbia River Basin, a drainage area that includes much of Oregon and Idaho.

The increased water supply

will be concentrated between November and May. More precipitation will fall as rain in the winter, and the snow that does accumulate will melt earlier in the spring.

In the fall and summer, when flows are lower than now, farmers with interruptible water rights may have their use curtailed more often in basins where the state has set minimum flows to protect fish, wildlife and scenery.

Farmers with senior water rights may respond to more efficient use of water by growing two crops in a season, according to the report. "Actual irrigation demand in 2035 may therefore not decrease to the extent projected in this forecast," the report states.

The forecast assumes no new projects to store water for the summer. The state has blueprints for increasing water supplies, but funding for major projects is uncertain.

"It's very, very difficult to anticipate what technologies will come along and change the game," Kruger said. "Hu-

mans are amazingly intelligent and amazingly creative. Our ability to manage and adapt is phenomenal and usually under-appreciated," he said.

The study's findings and conclusions include:

- Irrigation demand will drop by 272,100 acre-feet a year in the basin, even assuming no reduction in irrigated acreage. One acre-foot equals 1 foot of water covering an acre.

- Even if agricultural demand for surface water decreases, there will be a demand for additional surface water to replace groundwater drawn from Eastern Washington's depleting Odessa Subarea.

- Surface water flowing into Washington will increase by 14 percent by 2035. Annual surface water supplies generated within Washington are expected to increase approximately 4 percent.

- The type of crops grown will affect water demand. For example, more winegrapes, which use relatively little water, would reduce water use.

NEW FROM KUHN

CLEAN, EVEN CUTTING

NEW GMD MOUNTED SERIES DISC MOWERS

- Low-profile design for fast, clean cutting
- The Protectadrive® system protects the cutterbar gear train and minimizes downtime
- Heavy-duty cutterbar ensures low maintenance and long life
- Spring suspension provides outstanding ground contouring

5'3" - 10'2" cutting widths • Premium & Select models available

KUHN
INVEST IN QUALITY®

KuhnNorthAmerica.com

Pioneer Equipment Palmer, AK	Gonzales Equipment Gonzales, CA	Belkorp Ag Merced, CA Modesto, CA Santa Rosa, CA Stockton, CA	Papé Machinery cont. McMinnville, OR Merrill, OR Roseburg, OR Salem, OR Tangent, OR	Farmers Equipment Burlington, WA Lynden, WA	Watkins Tractor & Supply Kelso, WA
Valley Truck & Tractor Chico, CA Colusa, CA Dixon, CA	Torrence's Farm Implements Heber, CA	Papé Machinery Fall River Mills, CA Aurora, OR Central Point, OR Cornelius, OR Gresham, OR Harrisburg, OR Madras, OR	Boyd's Implement Tillamook, OR	Washington Tractor Chehalis, WA Sumner, WA Ellensburg, WA Quincy, WA Yakima, WA	Campbell Tractor Fruitland, ID Glenns Ferry, ID Homedale, ID Nampa, ID Wendell, ID
Marble Mountain Machinery Fort Jones, CA	Quality Machinery Center Hanford, CA Madera, CA Tulare, CA	Fernbridge Tractor Fortuna, CA	Central Machinery Sales Hermiston, OR Moses Lake, WA Pasco, WA Sunnyside, WA	Visit your local Kuhn Dealer today!	

LOW INTEREST LOANS FOR IDAHO SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION

- Sprinkler Irrigation
- No-Till Drills
- Fences
- Livestock Feeding Operations
- Solar Stock Water Pump Systems

2.5% - 3.25%
Terms 7-15 Years
Up to \$200,000



swc.idaho.gov | 208-332-1790