

# COSMIC CRISP

## A rising star for apple producers



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

The tiny yellow specks in the skin on the Cosmic Crisp are lenticels or pores. That they look like little stars is the basis for the Cosmic name.

## Washington apple growers have high hopes for new variety that could change industry

By **DAN WHEAT**  
Capital Press

**M**ANSON, Wash. — Chris Anderson is in his 37th year of operating a small apple orchard once owned by his father on the north shore of Lake Chelan. He's among more than 50 Washington growers selected in a drawing for this spring's first planting of the Cosmic Crisp, a new apple variety that industry leaders hope will usher in a new era.

It's a \$275 million to \$500 million risk on an apple the industry hopes consumers will love. Plans call for it to replace the Red Delicious as the new Washington state apple and be the foundation for higher and steadier financial returns for decades to come.

Apples are big business in Washington state.

Turn to **COSMIC**, Page 12

**Five million Cosmic Crisp trees will go out during each of the next two springs. The rapid roll-out marks a first for the industry.**



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Chris Anderson of Manson, Wash., on June 9 with the Cosmic Crisp apple trees he planted in April and May. He spent about \$20,000 on 2,200 trees and hopes they bring him good returns. About 50 growers, selected in a drawing, also planted Cosmic Crisp trees this spring.

## Senate presses McLerran on What's Upstream

By **DON JENKINS**  
Capital Press

OLYMPIA — Former Environmental Protection Agency Northwest director Dennis McLerran said Wednesday that the What's Upstream

campaign was "harsh," but he declined to condemn it at a Senate hearing.

McLerran faced sharp questioning during an unusual hearing on whether he should be confirmed to serve in an unpaid capacity on the Puget Sound Leadership Council, a state agency that oversees water quality and habitat projects. The forum provided an opportunity for senators to question McLerran, who had never spoken publicly about What's Upstream.

Senate environment committee chairman Doug Ericksen, who called the hearing, asked McLerran about his role in allowing the Swinomish Indian tribe to spend nearly \$500,000 in EPA funds to hire Seattle lobbying firm Strategies 360 and press for

restrictions on farming near water in Washington.

"Today, will you condemn the What's Upstream program?" asked Ericksen, a Republican whose district includes north Puget Sound farmers targeted by the campaign.

"Condemn is not a word I would use," McLerran said.

Ericksen pressed on, asking whether McLerran would characterize the campaign as "wrong."

"Yeah, it shouldn't have happened," McLerran said.

The 50-minute confirmation hearing was a rarity. Many gubernatorial appointees who are technically subject to Senate confirmation serve without ever being summoned for

Turn to **SENATE**, Page 12

## Azure Farms, Sherman County near agreement on weed control

By **ERIC MORTENSON**  
Capital Press

A weed control plan for the Azure Farms organic operation is up for discussion by the Sherman County Court June 21 in Moro, Ore.

The plan is under negotiation by Rod Asher, the county's weed district supervisor, with brothers Nathan Stelzer and David Stelzer, the Azure Farms manager and CEO of Azure Standard, respectively.

Nathan Stelzer said he and the county are close to a weed control agreement but some details remain to be settled. Particularly, he



Eric Mortenson/Capital Press

Sherman County weed district Supervisor Rod Asher, left, and Azure Farms Manager Nathan Stelzer, right, spoke to the county court about the farm's proposed weed control plan in May. The county court will again discuss the plan on June 21.

wants the control options "totally spelled out" so the county weed officer doesn't come on the property and spray.

"We both want the same end result," he said. "We want to trust each other."

Turn to **WEEDS**, Page 12

**EVER WONDERED WHAT TO DO WITH THAT OLD, WORN OUT COMMODITY TRAILER?**

NEW SALES • REBIN PROGRAM • TRAILER PARTS • REPAIR & SERVICE • CUSTOM MANUFACTURING



Our Rebin Program can turn your old trailer into a new trailer! We will remove all working mechanical parts, and replace the bin with a new Stainless Steel STC Bin on your existing running gear. All parts deemed reusable are reinstalled on the new bin. All of this at the fraction of the cost of a new trailer!



494 W. Hwy 39  
Blackfoot, ID 83321  
208-785-1364

[WWW.STCTRAILERS.COM](http://WWW.STCTRAILERS.COM)

