



Dan Wheat/Capital Press

Marina Mendoza sorts Kanzi apples at Columbia Fruit Packers in Wenatchee, Wash., on Feb. 4. Kanzi is a newer variety. Wholesale apple prices continue to strengthen at the mid-point of the sales season.

Apple prices do well as sales season progresses

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

WENATCHEE, Wash. — With Washington’s 2015 apple crop approaching the halfway point in the sales season, prices continue to improve and grower returns should be good.

“All in all, it looks like the 2015 season will have about the same returns as 2013 and 2011, net returns of \$500 million to \$600 million for growers,” said Desmond O’Rourke, a retired Washington State University agricultural economist and longtime observer of the apple industry.

That’s after production, packing-shipping and marketing costs have been deducted, he said, adding that his estimate is based on incomplete data.

He estimates growers netted less than \$100 million on the 2014 crop, which was the largest on record and therefore brought the lowest prices in eight years.

2012 was a large crop with good prices because of light production in the Midwest, East Coast, Europe, Cana-

da and Mexico. Washington growers probably netted close to \$1 billion off the 2012 crop, O’Rourke estimates.

Prices have improved in the 2015-2016 sales season and will continue to slowly strengthen, he said.

Prices of extra-fancy grade across all varieties averaged \$23 to \$24 per 40-pound box in October, \$24 to \$25 in November and December and in January are topping \$25.50, he said.

“Demand is fairly sluggish so prices probably will rise slowly the next few months. In July and August, they can go up quite a bit as inventories fall,” O’Rourke said.

An unknown, he said, is how well quality holds up given heat damage last summer.

Tom Riggan, general manager of Chelan Fresh Marketing, said February typically is sluggish but that exports to Mexico and India should increase soon. He said he’s pretty confident in quality, that some Gala has been culled out for splits but that he hasn’t heard of any large scale failure of apples to hold their firmness in storage.

Federal miscommunication causes respirator confusion

Some pesticide labels require applicators to use wrong respirators

By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI
Capital Press

Pesticide applicators have been required to use the wrong types of protective respirators when spraying certain chemicals due to apparent miscommunication between federal agencies.

The problem evidently dates back to the 1990s, when federal classifications for respirators were changed, but it did not come to light until an Oregon workplace safety regulator noticed the mismatch in 2014.

Garnet Cooke, pesticide coordinator for the state’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration, has since been educating farmers about picking the right respirators despite the misclassification while pushing for necessary revisions to labels.

“I want people to be able protect themselves and pick the

right one,” Cooke said.

The issue was brought to Cooke’s attention when she saw that one pesticide label required applicators to wear a respirator classified as TC-21C, a piece of equipment that consists of a full helmet and powered air purifier.

Recycled code

However, Cooke knew that the same chemical historically only required a simple face mask respirator, which was once categorized as a TC-21C before the federal government recycled that code to refer to the highly sophisticated respirator.

After calling the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Cooke learned that the agency hadn’t increased its safety requirements for the pesticide — it was simply using the outdated respirator classification.

While this example involved a respirator that was overly complex — and expensive — for the pesticide in question, in another case Cooke found that the required respirator did not provide full

protection from particulates.

In other words, the required respirator was overkill for some pesticides and inadequate for others due to the label misclassifications.

Cooke said that the problem was likely caused by a lack of communication between the three government agencies that regulate respirators: the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health, which approves and classifies them; the EPA, which assigns them to pesticide labels; and OSHA, which enforces their proper usage.

Agencies don’t talk

“These agencies do not sit in a room and talk,” Cooke said.

Capital Press was unable to reach officials from NIOSH or EPA for comment as of press time. In Oregon, the state government enforces OSHA standards.

So far, Cooke has been contacting individual pesticide manufacturers on a case-by-case basis about respirator misclassifications as they come to

her attention.

While there’s currently no organized system for correcting the problem, there is an opportunity for EPA to require revisions as it implements new worker protection standards on pesticide labels, she said. An EPA task force has also been assembled to look for solutions.

Seeking solutions

“There is movement in that direction,” Cooke said.

In the meantime, Cooke has developed a guide for farmers to consult when deciding which respirators to use for certain pesticides.

Growers should buy respirators based on the components of the equipment needed to spray the pesticide, she said.

The problem is that farmers now face an added layer of complexity when trying to properly apply the chemicals.

“You’ve got a lot of restrictions on a label,” said Mark Trostle, director of global registrations and regulatory affairs for Loveland Products, a pesticide company.

WSU apple gets push with new name

By DAN WHEAT
Capital Press

PULLMAN, Wash. — Washington State University has re-introduced an apple variety from its breeding program in Wenatchee that it first released six years ago.

Initially only known by its breeding name, WA 2, the apple didn’t catch on with growers or marketers because it had no name. The idea was to let each company grow and sell it under whatever name it chose. That didn’t go over well.

Some 24 licenses were granted but licensees wanted one common name to prevent marketplace confusion, nursery owners say. WSU picked the name Crimson Delight but interest didn’t grow.

“We learned from our mistakes and are modeling our approach after WA 38,” said Albert Tsui, WSU business development specialist.

WA 38 is the breeding name of Cosmic Crisp, a new variety



Courtesy of Kate Evans/WSU

Sunrise Magic is the new consumer-selected brand name for WSU’s WA 2 apple, a cross between Splendour and Gala. notforsale

sparking high industry interest. Proprietary Variety Management, a variety management company in Yakima owned by nurseryman Lynnell Brandt, is assisting WSU in the commercial development of both varieties. WSU managed the initial release of WA 2 alone.

Consumer focus groups in Spokane and Seattle were used to select Sunrise Magic as the new brand name for WA 2. New growers obtaining WSU

licenses to grow the variety will be required to use Sunrise Magic but prior licensees will be allowed to use whatever name they’d chosen or switch to the new name, Tsui said.

“I would be surprised if any of them switch because the old licenses are more favorable to them. They pay royalties on the tree but not the fruit,” he said.

Ray Keller, general manager of Apple King in Yakima, said WSU never trademarked the name Crimson Delight so his company did and will continue to pack the apple under that name. It markets through L&M Northwest Inc., Raleigh, N.C.

Apple King is the largest packer of Crimson Delight at 10,000 40-pound boxes and one of its orchard companies is the largest grower, Keller said.

“Our intent is to plant a lot more and we welcome others,” he said.

The apple was developed by the apple breeding program at the WSU Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center

in Wenatchee by Bruce Barritt, who is now retired. The apple is a cross between Gala and Splendour. It has a pinkish-red blush with conspicuous lentils, tiny pores in the skin. It is sweet with moderate acidity, stores well and is harvested about a week after Cosmic Crisp during the Red Delicious season.

Tom Riggan, general manager of Chelan Fresh Marketing, said WA 2 lacks the “wow factor” of Cosmic Crisp in taste.

“A lot of growers are getting behind Cosmic Crisp because it’s a tremendous eating apple and stores well,” Riggan said. “I have eaten both over the years and Cosmic Crisp really impresses me where the WA 2 didn’t impress me. It didn’t have the wow factor. There are a lot of new varieties and unless you have the wow factor it can be just another apple. It has to have some serious attributes for people to want to make it their apple.”

LEGAL

PUBLIC NOTICE OF SALE
State of Oregon Department of Forestry

OF APPROXIMATELY 115 ACRES OF IMPROVED PROPERTY KNOWN AS THE D.L. PHIPPS FOREST NURSERY

Location: D.L. Phipps Forest Nursery 2424 Wells Road
Elkton, Oregon 97436

Description:
Parcel No. 1 (Elkton Nursery): Beginning at a point on the property line between Norman L. Compton and Keith Kesterson 1265.6 feet North and 957.0 feet West of the one-quarter corner common to Sections 1 and 12, Township 23 South, Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian; thence South 18° 14' West 2436.7 feet along the Keith Kesterson property line; thence North 57° 30' West 1099.8 feet; North 65° 45' West 1122.0 feet; North 63° 45' West 330.0 feet; North 73° West 48.8 feet to a point on the Howard F. Carnes Property line; thence North 30° 54' East 1451.8 feet along the Howard F. Carnes property line; thence North 84° 29' East 1068.0 feet; South 48° 56' East 572.2 feet; North 18° 14' East 550.6 feet; South 58° 34' East 754.0 feet to the point of beginning, all in Douglas County, Oregon.

Parcel No. 2 (Road to Elkton Nursery): Beginning at a point 25 feet South of the center of the Existing County Road No. 203, said point being 532.7 feet North and 1773.0 feet East of the Northeast corner of the William F. Bay Donation Land Claim No. 38; Township 23 South Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian, thence along the center line of a road right of way 50 feet in width South 26° 01' West 639.5 feet; South 11° 57' East 83.5 feet; South 4° 29' East 365.7 feet; South 39° 52' East 446.3 feet; South 22° 34' East 342.8 feet; South 49° 33' East 80.9 feet; South 25° 10' East 449.5 feet; South 64° 10' East 72.4 feet; South 41° 15' East 183.7 feet; South 75°46' East 80.0 feet; South 22° 52' West 71.7 feet; North 89° 24' East 97.7 feet; South 72° 19' East 71.8 feet; thence along a 70 foot right of way North 67° 27' East 66.0 feet; South 30°19' West 192.3 feet; thence North 56°16' East 82.0 feet; South 19° 13' West 81.8 feet; South 87° 17' East 48.4 feet; South 36° 39' East 222.7 feet; South 13° 48' West 71.3 feet to a point on the North boundary of the proposed Elkton Nursery site 1370.5 feet North and 1128.8 feet South of the one-quarter corner common to Sections 1 and 12, Township 23 South, Range 8 West, Willamette Meridian, all in Douglas County, Oregon.

Zoning: Exclusive Farm Use (EFU)

Sale:
This property is owned in Fee Simple by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).

Price:
Minimum asking price for the entire property in “As Is” condition is One Million Three Hundred Sixty Five Thousand dollars (USD \$1,365,000).

Compliance with RFP:
All Proposals must comply with a Request for Proposal issued by ODF. A copy of the RFP can be obtained from:

Oregon Department of Forestry Administrative Services Program
Facilities Section - Bldg. “F”
2600 State Street
Salem Oregon 97310
Attn: D. Chris Stewart, P.E.
Facilities Director
Phone: (503) 945-7375

Public Commentary:
The Public is invited to comment on the values of this property to the people of the State of Oregon; including its values for fish and wildlife habitat and public access to other property in accordance with OAR 125-045-215(7). All such comments must be in writing and sent to the Submittal Address described below. Comments are due no later than **3 PM (Pacific Time), Monday, March 7, 2016.**

Deadline:
Proposals must be in writing and signed by a person authorized on behalf of the Offeror in accordance with 125-045-0235(6), and received at the following address by no later than **3 PM (Pacific Time), Monday, March 7, 2016.**

D.L. Phipps Nursery Proposal
Oregon Department of Forestry
Facilities Section - Bldg. “F”
2600 State Street
Salem Oregon 97310
Attn: D. Chris Stewart, Facilities Director
Phone: (503) 945-7375

*Reservation of Rights by ODF:Pursuant to ORS 270.130; ODF reserves the right to accept or reject any proposal.

Pursuant to OAR 125-045-0235(3)(e): Terminal Disposition of this State Real Property Interest may be subject to a Right of First Refusal.

legal-6-3-4/#4

NOTICE OF SURPLUS SALE

Skamania County Noxious Weed Board is requesting sealed bids for the following equipment:

- Item 1 - **Case International 895 Tractor (1992 Model):** 4WD, Diesel, Dual PTO, 3 point hitch, Good rubber, 3,274 hours
- Item 2 - **Melroe 240 Seed Drill Model # 240-206**
- Item 3 - **Leon Mfg. Hydraulic Controlled grading/back blade Model 390**
- Item 4 - **Allied Products Bush Hog 5' mower deck, Model S084**
- Item 5 - **Lely-Pacific, Inc. Roterra Model # 2520-20 (8'6" wide)**
- Item 6 - **Boom Sprayer (Frame – Mitchel Model 15AR30 and Pump – ANNOVI/Reverberi Model AR50) 155 gallon tank; hooks up to tractor PTO**

All equipment will be sold as is and can be sold separately or as a package.

Sealed bids will be received at — the following location before the specified time:

Skamania County Noxious Weed Board Office
704 SW Rock Creek Drive,
Stevenson, Washington
prior to 12:00 P.M. on
Tuesday, March 1, 2016.
Office open M-Thur, 7:30-5:30

Date of Opening Bids

The bid opening for this project shall be Wednesday, March 2, 2016 at 10:30 am during the regularly scheduled Weed Board meeting at the Noxious Weed Board Office, 704 SW Rock Creek Drive, Stevenson.

Any bid received after the hour specified in the announcement will not be considered.

More information can be obtained by calling the Noxious Weed Board office at 509-427-3941. Photos of the surplus equipment can be found on the Weed Board webpage at www.skamaniacounty.org/noxious-weeds/. Please call ahead for a reservation to inspect equipment in person.

RESERVATIONS:

The Noxious Weed Board of Skamania County, Washington herein expressly reserves the following rights:

- to reject any and/or all bids
- to waive any and/or all irregularities in the bids submitted
- to base awards with due regard to quality
- to make the award to any bidder whose bid, in the opinion of the Noxious Weed Board, best serves the interest of Skamania County

7-4/#4

Brothers offer ag advocacy farmer-style

By MATTHEW WEAVER
Capital Press

SPOKANE — Three brothers living on a Kansas family farm found an entertaining way to tell agriculture’s story using parodies of popular songs, and see it as an important way to bridge the urban-rural divide.

The Peterson Farm Brothers — Kendal, 19; Nathan, 22, and Greg, 25 — talked about their success on the video website YouTube Feb. 4 during the Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum.

The Petersons created farm versions of such songs as LM-FAO’s “I’m Sexy and I Know It,” which became “I’m Farming And I Grow It,” or Katy Perry’s “Roar,” which turned into an anthem to farm labor with “Chore.”

They have created nine parody videos so far, including their most popular. “Farmer Style,” an agricultural take on PSY’s “Gangnam Style.”

Matthew Weaver/Capital Press

The Peterson Farm Brothers perform one of their agriculture-themed song parodies Feb. 4 during the Spokane Ag Expo and Pacific Northwest Farm Forum.

Oldest brother Greg got the idea as a student at Kansas State University, where he was majoring in agricultural communications and minoring in music. Class discussions often addressed the disconnect between the public and farmers and programs such as FFA.

“I always thought to myself, surely there’s a more entertaining way to be doing

this,” he said. “I knew the power music had to get you to listen to something you wouldn’t otherwise listen to.”

Greg coaxed younger brothers Nathan and Kendal into shooting “I’m Farming and I Grow It,” expecting to share the video with friends. After a few years, they thought, the video might hit 50,000 viewers.

The brothers posted the video on YouTube on June 25, 2012. The next day, they had their first of many media interviews and the video was up to 20,000 views. That led to a “deer in the headlights” appearance on Fox News in New York City several days later — Kendal and Nathan had never been on a plane before — and the video received 5 million views by July 2.

Today, the Petersons’ videos have been viewed nearly 33 million times.

The brothers do not parody country music, the better to reach people who are disconnected from farming and agriculture.

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7-1/#14