

Horticulture 2022

North Central Washington Tree Fruit Days Jan. 18-20, Feb. 9

Choose in-person or hybrid virtual webinar option

By TIANNA DUPONT, WSU EXTENSION

NCW - Join us for North Central Washington Tree Fruit Days Jan. 18-20 and Feb. 9 designed to provide research-based information on key horticulture and pest management topics impacting your profitability in the short and long term.

This year Apple, Pear and Stone Fruit Day events will be hosted in-person in Wenatchee, Jan. 18-20, with a hybrid virtual webinar option. The Okanogan Horticultural

Association Annual meeting will be Feb. 9, in Omak. A half day Spanish session will be available Jan. 19, in Wenatchee. Co-sponsored by WSU Extension, Northwest Cherry Growers, Pear Bureau Northwest, NCW Fieldmen's Association, and the Okanogan Horticultural Association.

Two-three pesticide update credits will be available per day pending WSDA/ODA approval. Visit treefruit.wsu.edu/events for more information.

NCW Apple Day
January 18, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Wenatchee Convention Center
Two-three WSDA and ODA pesticide update credits pending approval. Hybrid In-person and Virtual event. No fee to attend. Co-sponsored by WSU Extension and

NCW Fieldmen's Association.
Session 1: Codling Moth and Mites
• Preventing and Trouble Shooting Codling Moth Problems
• Insights from the Codling Moth Survey - Where are We?
• Adding Alternative Controls to your Codling Moth Toolbox - SIR, Nematodes, and Netting
• Mite Management: New Information on Pesticide Non-Target Effects
Session 2: Healthy Roots for High Quality Crops
• Potential to Use Soil Health Assessments to Avoid Replant and Vigor Issues in New Plantings
• Root Health, Fertility, Water, and Crop Load Effects on Bitter Pit
Session 3: Managing Heat Stress
• Outlook on Climate and Washington Tree Fruit Production
• BMPs for Mitigating Heat Stress and Sunburn
• Designing an Effective Cooling System
• Managing Heat Stress: Lessons Learned at 118
Session 4: Technology and Engineering
• Trellis Engineering
• Hedging and Mechanical Leaf Removal for Quality and Profits
NCW Stone Fruit Day
January 19, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wenatchee Convention Center
Two-three WSDA and ODA pesticide update credits pending approval. Hybrid In-person and Virtual event. No fee to attend. Co-sponsored by WSU Extension and NW Cherry Growers.
Session 1: Insect management
• X-disease and Little Cherry Disease
• Updates on Spotted Wing Drosophila

SEE **TREE FRUIT DAYS** ON PAGE B2

Chelan Fruit Cooperative acquired by International Farming

By KALEE SIMMONS, CHELAN FRUIT



CHELAN - Chelan Fruit Cooperative ("Chelan Fruit"), a premiere Washington-based grower, packer and shipper of apples, cherries and pears, has been acquired by International Farming ("IFC"), an institutional asset manager connecting investors at the nexus of farmland, farmers and food.

Founded in 1921, Chelan Fruit is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a grower-owned cooperative. Chelan Fruit is a leading vertically integrated tree fruit producer with 1,100 acres of apples and cherries orchards as well as state-of-the-art packing facilities, controlled atmo-

sphere and storage assets. Chelan Fruit is also a worldwide owner of SugarBee®, a top proprietary variety with a well-recognized brand.

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IFC is a privately-owned institutional asset manager that partners with farmers to help maximize farm profitability through progressive farming and preventive farming techniques. Founded in 2009, IFC has family roots in agribusiness that date back to 1827. IFC applies their deep knowledge of agriculture, in-house agronomy solutions

and global relationships with farmers to unlock the value of farmland. IFC has been a trusted, long-standing partner for Chelan Fruit for six years prior to the transaction and will continue to work with the grower base and preserve their legacy in the next phase of the business. The combination of Chelan Fruit's grower base and IFC's nearly 5,000-acre existing Washington State tree fruit footprint provides a unique opportunity to enhance grower economics through economies of scale and providing a consistent high-quality fruit supply.

"We are very pleased and

SEE **ACQUIRED** ON PAGE B2

Manson Growers: 2021 season yielded 1.2 million boxes of apples

MEGAN SOKOL, STAFF WRITER

MANSON - "Apple Capitol of the World," a moniker for Wenatchee that expands across Chelan County. Despite severe heat, supply-chain delays, and transportation issues, fruit-packing companies comment on how they have been faring since last season.

Manson Growers' Assis-

tant General Manager Jared England reports that aside from the issues from last year, that their operation was doing considerably better compared to businesses who were dealing with staffing shortages.

"We've been fortunate to not have had any labor shortages really to date."

Due to Manson Growers essential business status,

"We've been fortunate to not have had any labor shortages really to date."

Jared England
Manson Growers
Assistant General
Manager

they have been able to have staff following the CDHD recommended COVID-19 protocols to help limit the impact. They also included on-site vaccinations for their workers.

The 2021 season yielded 1.2 million boxes, with 85% to 90% exported internationally. "That's up to 90% of our crop is sent international, either to Mexico or to Asia are our

SEE **MANSON** ON PAGE B2



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ACQUIRED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

excited to be part of IFC. Their heritage and performance demonstrate their commitment to the agribusiness community as evidenced by our affiliation through Monument Hills and Ice Harbor Orchards

in Quincy and Pasco. This transaction is definitely in the best interest of our member growers as 90% of them voted in support of this transaction" said Ed Johnson, CEO of Chelan Fruit.

Mr. Johnson added, "We are looking forward to a future that is progressive and forward looking with the

goal of consistently providing competitive returns to our growers. Just having reached the 100-year mark as a cooperative, this transaction is bittersweet. It will take time to mentally adjust to a new, private culture, but it is made easier by a partner in IFC whose focus is on what's in the best interest of growers

and in the end, their success ensures our success and sustainability."

Charlie McNairy, CEO of IFC, comments "We are excited to partner with Chelan Fruit and its growers to help build a leader in growing, storing and packing premium fruit. Chelan Fruit can only succeed when its growers do.

We are committed to supporting growers and reestablishing Washington State's North District as the world leader in providing premium fruit."

Scott Porter, Managing Director at Cascadia Capital added, "It was an honor to represent Chelan Fruit and its members in this transaction and we are thrilled to have

helped find a partner that met the objectives of the co-op and one that is also committed to serving the small grower."

Cascadia Capital acted as the exclusive financial adviser and Dorsey & Whitney LLP served as the legal advisor to Chelan Fruit. Brooks Pierce served as the legal advisor to International Farming.

MANSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

key largest markets."

The main issue that Manson Growers has been contending with are the systemic supply-chain issues that every industry has been battling during COVID-19. England reports higher delays in Seattle ports that are delaying their Asian exports.

"The availability of containers then delays their import. Many trucks are also refusing to deliver there because of the delays they experience when they arrive," England said. "We also have key relationships with different exporters that help us leverage the bookings, and so when they do come available, we're able to get in the queue."

These delays have been

a recent development for Manson Growers, with a 5% to 10% slow down from their usual shipping pace. However, the heat damage from this season lowered their usual output.

"Luckily this season's crop is smaller than our average, and so we are able to still keep our fruit moving, but at a slower pace," England said. "There was a percentage of fruit that was left on the

trees because of sunburn or other heat related damage, that impacted the overall crop size as well. Just the normal cyclical yield that happens in tree fruit."

England states that although 2021 was a slower year, they still felt that it was a good year for their operation.

Graphic Courtesy Manson Growers



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TREE FRUIT DAYS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1

- phila Research and Management
- Session 2: Disease management
 - Bacterial Canker
 - Cherry Powdery Mildew
- Session 3: Horticulture
 - Cherry Horticulture Updates
 - Evaluating Block Profitability

- Two-three WSDA and ODA pesticide update credits pending approval.
- Flexibilidad con Programas de Fuego Bacteriano / Flexibilidad with Fire Blight Programs
- Prácticas seguras en el uso de pesticidas / Safe Pesticide Application
- Manejo Integral de Plagas / Integrated Pest Management
- Cereza Pequeña y Fitoplasma X / X-disease and Little Cherry disease

Manejo de Frutales
January 19, 1-4 p.m.
Wenatchee Convention Center

NCW Pear Day
January 20, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wenatchee Convention Center
Two-three WSDA and ODA pesticide

- update credits pending approval.
- Hybrid In-person and Virtual event. Co-sponsored by WSU Extension and Pear Bureau Northwest.
- Session 1: Pest and Disease Management
 - Best Management Practices to Prevent Post Harvest Rots in the Orchard
 - Trechnites Wasps for Biological Control in Pear
- Session 2: Pear Psylla Management
 - Season Long IPM Management for Pear Psylla
- Session 3: Production, Quality and Profits
 - Evaluating New Pear Rootstocks
 - Increasing Pear Production in New and Existing Blocks
 - Irrigation Technology for Small Blocks Panel
 - High Density Pears Virtual Tour

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Okanogan Horticultural Assoc. Annual Meeting
February 9, 9-2:30 p.m.
Okanogan County Agriplex (County Fair Grounds)

Two-three WSDA pesticide update credits pending approval. In-person event. \$10 fee. Co-sponsored by Okanogan County Horticultural Association.

Topics:

- Apple Maggot Fly Discovered in Hawthorns in the Okanogan Valley
- Update on Apple Maggot Survey, What a Potential Quarantine Expansion Would Mean for Growers
- Pear Psylla Management
- Site Preparation for a Successful New Planting
- Vigor Management in WA38 and More!

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