To Interested Parties:

Re: Possible Changes to E. WA Use-Restricted Pesticide/County Rules

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is considering making changes to several of the Eastern Washington pesticide regulations, including the county regulations involving use-restricted herbicides (phenoxy herbicides, etc). These changes are necessary because:

- Many of the regulations have been around for over 50 years and are severely outdated.
- Remarkable improvements in sprayer and application technology have made some of the requirements obsolete.
- Many of the “Areas” found in the county regulations, originally designed to protect sensitive crops, have experienced significant growth, in particular wine grapes have nearly tripled over the last 15 years, making these Area boundaries invalid.
- Some of the “Areas” overlap causing confusion for growers and applicators.
- In some cases the regulations are now redundant due in part to significant changes in pesticide label language.
- Regulations need to be formatted in “Plain Talk” or other easy to understand language.

Making major changes to long-established rules that protect sensitive crops will undoubtedly arouse some concerns. Ultimately, though, WSDA is committed to ensuring that any changes resulting from this process will not increase the risk of injury to sensitive crops. As we consider possible changes to these rules, we want all affected groups to have input during the process. We have scheduled two (identical) general information meetings to discuss the issues and the process for change. These meetings are open to any interested individual (a working group with representatives from various affected stakeholder groups will be formed at a later time). Please let us know with an RSVP to jkangiser@agr.wa.gov (or call 360-902-2013) whether you will be able to attend one of the following meetings:
Meeting dates, times and locations:

July 15, 2015  6:30 – 8:30 PM  
2nd Floor Conference Room  
WSDA Building  
21 North 1st Avenue  
Yakima, WA 98902

July 23, 2015  6:30-8:30 PM  
L Building/Library,  Room L-102  
Columbia Basin College  
2600 N 20th Ave.  
Pasco, WA 99301

Please, no food or drinks at the Columbia Basin College location. Campus maps, driving directions, parking regulations, etc., can be found on the College website at www.columbiabasin.edu/map. Attendees can park in any white-lined non-reserve lot.

Thank you for your interest in this important matter.

Sincerely,

PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT DIVISION

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