

WSU Tree Fruit Quality School, Program, August 7, 2007

Morning Session 9:00 – 12:00

Welcome

Dr. Jay Brunner, Director, Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center, WSU

Fruit Quality at Harvest and Smartfresh™: Assessment of Fruit Firmness and Texture

Dr. Jim Mattheis, USDA-ARS

E-mail: MATTHEIS@tfrl.ars.usda.gov Web site: www.tfrl.ars.usda.gov

Impacts of apple harvest maturity on SmartFresh™ performance and the utility of multiple measures of fruit firmness and texture will be discussed. Results from multiple cultivars will be the basis for the presentation.

Attracting and Retaining Employees - What is your Competitive Advantage?

Karen Lewis, WSU Extension. E-mail: kmlewis@wsu.edu

Reality bites. You will need to compete for labor this season. Knowing what your operation, on a block-to-block, orchard-to-orchard basis can and cannot offer workers is key to developing employment strategies. Management and economic scenarios will be presented.

Coffee Break – Sponsored by G.S. Long

A “Preventive Extension Program” – Pro-active Management of Post Harvest Problems

Dr. W.J. (Bill) M^cPhee, Preventive Extension Coordinator – Pathology

Okanagan Tree Fruit Company, Kelowna, BC, CANADA

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There is a wealth of technology and research information to be utilized in fighting post harvest problems that plague the packing and marketing of fruit. Prevention requires an aggressive application of that technology and research. The key element in prevention is an intensive monitoring of the problems and traceability back to the source, which in many cases is found in the orchard.

Part 1: The Apple Industry of the South Tyrol, Italy

Dr. Angelo Zanella, Laimburg Experiment Station, Italy.

E-mail: Angelo.Zanella@provinz.bz.it Web site: www.laimburg.it

The apple industry of northern Italy is a very sophisticated industry with highly educated researchers and extension personnel who guide growers on cultivar selection, orchard systems, tree training and economics. They have an apple maturity program and a very highly technical postharvest industry.

Choosing Relevant Programs to Target Various Decay Problems

Dr. Chang-Lin Xiao, WSU.

E-mail: clxiao@wsu.edu Web site: <http://decay.tfrec.wsu.edu/>

Preharvest and postharvest options to control postharvest fruit rots under different postharvest handling practices.

*Lunch – Enjoy the Ellensburg BBQ (included in registration fee).
Visit the Frontier Village. Talk with Sponsors.*

Afternoon Session 1:00 – 4:00

Is Chlorine Damage a Lot of Hypo?

Dr. Eric Curry, USDA – ARS

E-mail: curry@tfrl.ars.usda.gov Web site: www.tfrl.ars.usda.gov

Warm, Cold, New, Old: Hypochlorite injury in 'Gala'

Food (Fruit) Safety: Is Perception Truly Reality?

Deborah Carter, Northwest Horticultural Council

Email: carter@nwhort.org Web Site: <http://www.nwhort.org>

With the recent media attention given to safety and quality of our food both domestic and imported, consumers are becoming anxious. How does the fruit industry fit into the picture? Is our industry prepared to address a food contamination scare? What is our response plan? Can the perception of unsafe food be changed or does perception truly become reality?

Part 2: Dynamic Control of CA Atmosphere by Monitoring Fluorescence

Dr. Angelo Zanella, Laimburg Experiment Station, Italy

Storage operators in the South Tyrol are pressured to eliminate postharvest chemical use.

Harvest Watch, an instrument that measured chemical changes in the apple during storage is being ever more widely used in Europe, with over 100 rooms under this system. Research has shown this to be an effective system with positive benefits in fruit quality.

Refreshment Break

Does Clean Water Really Make a Difference?

Dr. Bob Spotts, OSU.

E-mail: robert.spotts@oregonstate.edu Website: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/mcarec/>

Contaminated postharvest water systems can be a recipe for decay disaster. This talk will focus on water sanitation issues and include discussions on chlorine, chlorine dioxide, ozone, filtration, and heat sanitation as well as using new technology to monitor spore loads.

Progress on Lenticel Breakdown; Prediction Systems

Dr. Gene Kupferman, WSU.

E-mail: Kupfer@wsu.edu Website: <http://postharvest.tfrec.wsu.edu>

Lenticel breakdown of Gala apples has not been as serious a problem in the 2006 crop as in the past. However, research continues to provide insights into alternative options to minimize damage. Learn how packers can minimize this problem.

Join us in thanking the sponsors of this educational program:

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