



# EL AGRICULTOR LATINO (THE LATINO FARMER)

Center for Latino Farmers

Volume 5, Issue 1

January 2006

## Latino Farmers in Good Fruit Grower Magazine



Picture courtesy of Good Fruit Grower Magazine. Miguel Contreras poses besides his cameo apples in September.

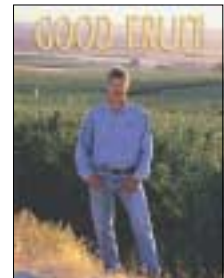
Miguel Contreras was amongst several Latino farmers from the Center whose success and efforts were recognized in the apple industry magazine "Good Fruit Grower" in the De-

ember 2005 issue. Olivia Galindo staff said, "The apple industry is recognizing the work of the Center and the new generation of farmers." Latinos many of them formerly farm workers are buying farms from white farmers knowing

that hard work is ahead, but they love to farm and they take pride in the quality of the products that they grow.

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WA Latino Farmers stories published in the December 05 issue of the Good Fruit Grower Magazine.

## Chihuahua Apple Growers meet with MMW Cooperative

The Center hosted a group of growers representing the agrarian state of Chihuahua Mexico, whose movement is called "Frente Democratico Campesino" and connected them with one of the coops recently incorporated by the Center called Manzaneros Mexicanos de Washington (MMW), a Latino apple farmer coop in the Yakima Valley area that extends from the Naches-Cowiche to Grandview/Prosser. The

discussion was beneficial for all growers because Chihuahua growers want to learn how to grow bigger quality apples, while the Washington farmers want to bridge ties to open up a direct market with their counterparts in Mexico. The Chihuahua farmers and their reps agreed to work together to find a solution beneficial for both parties.



l-r (Top) : Bialdo Lamas, Salvador Ruiz, Oralia Cisneros, Isidro Molinar, Felipe Ruelas, Rene Garcia, Rogelio Ruiz & Emiliano Garcia. (Bottom): Carmen Garcia, Jose Barajas, Daniel Delgado & Sergio Marquez.

**Center for Latino Farmers  
Yakima, WA**



**A Division of Rural Community  
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**FREE !!! - Spanish Workshops in 2006 - FREE!!!**

<b>Workshop/Training</b>	<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Basic Computers	Jan 30, 31	6:00 - 8:30 pm	Radio KDNA Computer Lab
Financial Management	Feb 20,21,22,23	6:00 - 8:30 pm	RCDR Small Business Incubator 22 S. 3rd Ave. Yakima, WA 98902 (right next door to the Center's office)
Pesticide Recertification 4 Cr.  WA State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	1. Feb 2 2. Feb 15 3. Mar 13 4. Mar 17 5. Mar 29	All Times  5:30-9:00 pm	1. Yakima, WSDA 2. Sunnyside, Work source 3. Pasco, High School 4. Mattawa, High School 5. Royal City, Middle School
Pesticide Pre-License Classes  WA State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	1. Jan 11 - 20 2. Jan 23 - Feb 1 3. Feb 6 - 14 4. Feb 22 - Mar 1 5. Mar 6 - 15 6. April 24 - May 3	All Times  6:00 - 9:00 pm  Exam on last day	1. Yakima, WSDA 2. Sunnyside, Work source 3. Pasco, High School 4. Mattawa, High School 5. Royal City, Middle School 6. Yakima, WSDA
*Monthly Radio Show	February 9 March 9 April 13 May 10	4:00 - 5:00 pm	Radio KDNA - FM 91.9

**Space is limited, to register call (509) 453-3157 or (509) 453-5133**

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## Senator Patty Murray Staff Visit Center



From left: Shawn Bills, Evan T. Schatz, Luz Bazan Gutierrez, Jose Barajas, Olivia Galindo & Salvador Castaneda

Senator Murray's staff, Shawn Bills, Director of her Central Wash Office & Evan T. Schatz, DC Legislative Asst visited with Center staff in early January to follow up on efforts to help Latino farmers. Luz Bazan Gutierrez who oversees the Center reiterated the importance of having this type of program for farmers in the

region. "Farmers come to us because we are community based, they feel comfortable and we are here to help them after 6 pm, on the weekends, and most importantly in their own language."

## NRCS Conservation Program is Available Now

USDA FSA & NRCS announced its Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) which assists with cost-share assistance for up to 50% for conservation practices and annual rental payments. The goal is to establish long term resource conserving

covers on eligible farmland. The voluntary program is available to certain areas.

This program is only available in some areas. Presently, the program is available for the Naches Watershed along the Tieton

River, Cowiche Creek and Upper and Lower Naches. Participants enroll in CRP contracts for 10 to 15 years.

Contact Olivia Galindo at the Center at 453-3157 or your local FSA Office.

## FSA offers Disaster Assistance Program

FSA announces Disaster Set-aside (DSA) low interest loans available for farmers that have financial problems caused by a natural disaster. The disaster has made them unable to pay all their family living and operation expenses, debts to creditors and current FSA farm loan payments. What this loan does is that it may delay any or all of the

FSA farm loan payments due this year or next year. FSA moves the deferred payment to the end of loan, to be paid. Loans that have less than 2 years remaining to mature are not eligible. DSA may be granted only if all farm loans if any are up-to-date after the payments are delayed.

To apply, a letter must be submitted to FSA sign by all parties liable for the debt as well as an actual production and income and expense records for the last 5 years.

This is why the Center stresses the importance of maintaining & participating in financial mgt training.



## Serna, Martinez and Contreras Given Certificates



Primitivo Serna owns 16 acres of cherries. Last year and this year the Center helped him get assistance through FSA in obtaining operating loans & a land development loan to finance a pond to aid him with the drought.

Primitivo Serna, Outlook, Miguel Contreras & Marcelo Martinez from Wapato were given a Certificate of Recognized at the Annual Hispanic Chamber of Commerce Awards ceremony in December 2005. Mr. Serna received the award for his tenacity and determination. He planted his cherry trees 5 years ago on his own without government assistance or bank loans and is now on his second year of production. Miguel

Contreras was recognized for his almost perfect attendance record in attending Center workshops. Marcelo Martinez was also recognized for his great efforts in attending all of the Center workshops, and for not getting discouraged due to the difficulty in getting an FSA loan approved and losing his first crop to hail. His perseverance in learning from mistakes and desire to learn is well recognized amongst Center.

## Financial Management Training In February

The Center will offer a financial management training on Monday 20th, Tuesday 21st, Wednesday 22nd, and Thursday the 23rd of February. This training will provide important information on how to maintain the financial information of your business and the importance of maintaining a good record system that will

save you time and problems at the end of the year. Assistance to this training is required by the Center if you have not attended a Financial Management training in the past, and in order to continue getting the help of the Center in the future. The Center stresses the importance of at-

tending this training because we know the importance of good record keeping to have a successful business.

Contact the Center to sign up or to see if you need to assist this training at 453-3157.

## Financial Information Needs to be Recorded

Every business needs to record financial information of the business at the beginning and at the end of the year. The best way is to complete a balance sheet at the beginning of the year to record all the assets and debts that the business has at the time and

at the end of the year to record all the expenses and the income. Maintaining records of the business is smart because it helps in analyzing how the business is doing or what needs to be done can recording is a good way to ana-

lyze the business or to see if any changes need to be made in order to keep the business.

If you need assistance with the preparation of the balance sheet you may call the Center at 453-3157