

Rural Community Development Resources

Business Resources & Training Center

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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State Ag Director Hover Meets with Latino Farmers

Yakima, WA: Newly appointed Director of Ag Don “Bud” Hover participated in a meeting with Latino farmers in Yakima last week, to introduce himself and hear about their needs and concerns. The meeting was coordinated by the Center for Latino Farmers based in Yakima.

Mr. Hover also introduced Ignacio Marquez his newly appointed Community Liaison for the Dept of Ag based in Yakima. Mr. Marquez is from the area and was formerly the area director for the Dept of Employment Security. Hector Castro new Communications Director was also introduced.

The issues discussed were the need to acknowledge and recognize the growth of the Latino farmers and ranchers in WA State (6th in the nation), need for increased services for pesticide licensing, food safety and organic farming, and inclusion in all workshops sponsored by the Dept of Ag such as Specialty Crop Block Grant Value Added Series, water and land conservation, etc. Mr. Hover also expressed his interest in working with all farmers and committed to be part of the next Latino Small Farms Conference in February 2014.

The farmers in attendance were Victoria Lopez (Tieton); Manuel & Maria Herrera, Miguel & Lucy Rojas, Sergio & Lilia Marquez (Wapato), Martin & Carmen Garcia (Toppenish). No other state Ag director had ever taken the time to visit with Latino farmers as a group.

For more information call 509-453-3157.

