

## Press Release

### For Immediate Release

Date: January 14, 2015  
To: All Media & PSA Directors  
Contact: Center for Latino Farmers  
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### **Changing Dynamics of Ag Conference**

Yakima,-WA- The Center for Latino Farmers (Center) will be hosting a **Small Farms Conference** entitled “**Changing Dynamic of Agriculture**” on **February 6, 2015** in Yakima at the Convention **Center**. The conference is targeting Hispanic/Latino new or established farmers and ranchers as well as other small farm operators who want to learn about changes in the Ag industry and programs, services and grants available to producers. Based on responses to date, attendance will surpass year’s conference.

**Date: February 6, 2015**  
**Time: 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.**  
**Place: Yakima Convention Center**

Newly elected Congressman Dan Newhouse has been invited to be the keynote speaker during the luncheon. Attendance to luncheon will be open to the public for \$25, but requires pre registered to assure that we can accommodate all who are interested in attending.

Juan Martinez representing Alliance of Hispanics in Agriculture will discuss the history and the dynamic growth of Hispanics in agriculture as has been clearly documented seen in the NASS Ag Census throughout the last 10 years.

The all day networking event is to bring together producers, professionals and businesses in agriculture from throughout the region and State of WA and hear from experts and other farmers about the issues facing small producers. Presenters from federal and state agencies will be speaking on topics such as food safety, gap certification, programs and grants available from USDA agencies, marketing, coop development, crop insurance, labor issues, H2A program, farm succession, and the Affordable Care Act.

The WA State Dept of Agriculture will offer WPS Hands-On Training for Pesticide Handlers as part of the conference. The workshop provides practical, hands-on training that exceeds state and

federal training requirements of the Worker Protection Standard (WPS). Upon completion, the Handler Training Verification Cards will be issued and six credits for existing license holders.

Registration for the conference is \$100 per producer which includes a continental breakfast and a sit down luncheon. The registration fee for the first 50 producers will be waived.

Exhibit space is still available for interested sponsors or vendors. The conference is made possible from a grant from the USDA Beginning Farmers /Ranchers Development Program (BFRDP). Translation services for limited English speakers will be available during the session.

To register or receive more information, call Maria DJ Rodriguez or Maria Giedra at 509-453-3157.