

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



**15th Annual Fresh Hop Ale Festival gets a jump on the season
with earlier date: Sept. 30**

YAKIMA, WA – The end of summer is just the beginning in the Yakima Valley: It's harvest season, when nearby fields are heavy with fruit and vegetables . . . and 75 percent of the world's hops.

That's something to celebrate!

The 15th annual Yakima Fresh Hop Ale Festival, growing more popular each year, does just that with fresh-off-the-vine beers from more than 40 breweries, music and food in downtown Yakima.

The festival not only honors our rich hop-growing tradition, but also supports the Yakima Valley's arts and education scene. Proceeds from the festival will go toward Yakima art and education organizations including The Season Performance Hall and the Yakima Valley Museum. Past recipients have included Yakima Maker Space, Hop Growers of Washington, Gilbert Elementary School, Yakima Morelia Sister City (to help fund a Latino film festival), and the Latino Professional Association Scholarship Program.

The festival is traditionally held the first Saturday in October, but this year's festival is a week earlier, on Saturday, Sept. 30, getting a jump on harvest and the freshest of the hops. The Fresh Hop Ale Festival will be held at the Millennium Plaza in downtown Yakima, WA. The party begins at 5 p.m., while VIP access gets in one hour earlier.

Organizations interested in applying for grants and those interested in volunteering to help with the festival can visit freshhopalefestival.com/volunteer. You must be at least 21 years old to volunteer during the festival.

The volunteer committee for the Fresh Hop Ale Festival recognizes the unique opportunity we have here in the Yakima Valley to celebrate our agricultural history and its future while also giving back to the community.

Tickets, \$45, are available at freshhopalefestival.com

For more information or to schedule an interview with members of the Fresh Hop Ale Festival committee, please call Ty Paxton at 509-833-8421 or email Ty at typaxton7@gmail.com.

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