

# Pear Research Sub-Committee Report to the Fresh Pear Committee

Prepared by Acting Chairman Bob Gix May 30, 2019



## *2018-2019 Season Highlights*

1). A lot of hours and dedication were put in creating a Strategic Plan for Pear research. We have a document to share with you that demonstrates some accomplishments as well as planned activities.

The version you will find in your board packet comes as a result of partnering with the Washington State Research Commission and using a working format similar to their Tree Fruit Research Strategic Plan. At this meeting I have asked Tory Schmidt from the research commission to share a few words on that effort.

2). The pear research review meetings had excellent participation from the Sub-Committee with 13 of the 15 members present for the review held in February 2019. We also had participation at the research review with our research partners the Washington Research Commission who had 5 of their board members present at the review. There were many good discussions with different points of view expressed. The taking of good notes and sharing the feedback positive and negative to researchers has been well received.

The 1.4 cents per packed box assessment increase on the Fresh Pear Assessment was enacted on 7/1/2018 and started with the 2018 crop year (August and Fall Harvest, 2018). Those funds are included in the budget for the Pear Research Funding for 2019 -2020.

3). Updates for membership to the Pear Research Sub-Committee subject to approval by the Chairs of Fresh and Processed Pear depending on position. There are two changes recommended for the coming season. Alan Groff has not been able to be active in his participation and I propose replacing him with Jim Johnson, Jim Johnson was new to the committee in 2018 though was listed as representing the WTFRC. We have developed a working protocol with the WTFRC concerning members who represent them and Fresh Pear on the Pear Research Sub-Committee. Their Board is recommending the following 4 individuals for the 2019-2020 season. Retain 3 members currently serving including Sam Godwin, Jason Matson, Phil Doornink, and add Floyd Stutzman as their 4<sup>th</sup> recommendation.

4). European Technology Tour: I, Bob Gix, participated in a technology tour through the fruit industry in the Netherlands and Germany with the WTFRC. It was an opportunity to see applications of computer assisted inventory management, repackaging of imported items for export, an emphasis on environmentally friendly packaging to replace plastics, and many other technologies. The trip left the impression that many changes with technology innovations are happening. We saw opportunities for research partnerships and shared many observations of similarities and differences between their industry and ours. I was impressed with moisture loss measurements taken from the defrost coils and how moisture was added to their smaller Pear CA rooms. A next step is to visit the Microsoft Campus in early June with the WTFRC and learn what their farm focus is.