



**Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO**

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# NEWS ADVISORY

Daily labor reports at [www.wslc.org](http://www.wslc.org)

To: News and Assignment Editors  
Date: Wednesday, September 20, 2000 Release: IMMEDIATE  
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## Farm workers end longest harvest-time strike in state's history

Farm workers at Flat Top Orchards, a mid-Columbia apple grower owned by the Yakima-based Barton and Sons, have ended a five-week strike over wage rollbacks, the longest organized work stoppage during harvest season in the history of the state. Management ultimately agreed to written disclosure of wage rates, and a guarantee of piece-rate pay instead of the minimum wage.

Representatives of the farm workers and their community supporters will discuss details of the settlement and the broader issues of freedom of association, working conditions, and amnesty for farm workers at:

**WHAT:** A News Conference with  
**Lupe Gamboa**, United Farm Workers of America  
**Michael Ramos**, Washington State Council of Churches  
**Steve Williamson**, King County Labor Council

**WHEN:** **Thursday, September 21 at Noon**

**WHERE:** Pike Place Market (across the street from the "flying fish" stand)

"It took enormous courage for these workers to stand together for so long," said Lupe Gamboa, regional director of United Farm Workers of America. "I think their perseverance and dedication has surprised and alarmed the grower community, and ultimately will be seen as a turning point in the battle to organize our most exploited workforce, and collectively improve their working and living conditions."

The settlement at Flat Top represents the last of more than a dozen such wage-dispute settlements across Eastern Washington, where the number wildcat farmworker strikes reached an unprecedented level this season.

For more information, contact Lupe Gamboa at (509) 839-4903 or (509) 728-1554 (cell phone); or David Groves at the Washington State Labor Council, (206) 281-8901.