

***Our mission: To continuously improve  
the sanitation and quality of hops  
used in the brewing and cellaring of great beers.***



<b>Date</b>	19 August, 2014
<b>Location</b>	Firewater Ranch, Washington
<b>Purpose</b>	Pre-Harvest Quality Visit

<b>Attendees:</b>	Val Peacock – Hop Quality Group
Dan Martinez	Jason Pond - Firestone Walker
Randy King	
Bob Mondor – John I. Haas	Zach Bodah – Allagash Brewing
David Del Moro – John I. Haas	Christian Holbrook – New Belgium Brewing

**Operations Description**

A new building is going up around a 10-year old picker. Construction was in progress as we visited. The front end was previously open. Even though the picker is open due to the construction, it was clean and relatively bird free.
The oast area is fairly new (except for the floor) and is clean and well maintained.

**Areas of Concern**

Hopefully, the picking building will be bird tight when the construction is completed.
There are some uncovered openings in the oast area where birds could enter, though there is little evidence they have.
The cooling floor is badly cracked. Patching t with concrete would probably crack and small pieces of concrete would end up in the hops. How to patch it with some food grade material is not obvious.

**Recommendations**

Seal up openings in the drying area to keep birds out.
Think about some options on patching the cooling floor area.

***The Hop Quality Group thanks you for the privilege of working together  
on our commitment to quality hops for great beers.***