
NW Small Fruit Notes

NORTHWEST CENTER FOR SMALL FRUITS RESEARCH

4845 B SW Dresden Ave, Corvallis, OR 97333
Phone: 541-758-4043 Fax: 541-758-4553 pnwa@comcast.net www.nwsmallfruits.org

2011 Annual Conference in Portland

Monarch Hotel, Portland/Clackamas, Oregon

Main Conference Day - Thursday, December 1, 2011 (see inside for details)

CENTER FUNDING UPDATE

Earmarks Moratorium

Along with many Agricultural research organizations across the US, the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research (NCSFR) has been impacted by the Congressional moratorium on earmarks. Prior to 2011, the Center has received approximately \$307,000 yearly through USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture (NIFA) in the form of an earmark. These funds have provided a critical piece to the Center's overall funding profile including competitive grants, administration expenses (not including trip coordination to DC) and maintaining the NW Berry Grape InfoNet. The Congressional moratorium on earmarks has removed these funds from the Center for at least 2011 and 2012.

Also cut was the \$275,000 funding increase for the ARS Small Fruits Initiative. These funds had been directed towards developing a long-term plant pathology program for the Pacific Northwest. In addition to the earmark cut, all ARS projects had a permanent rescission of 0.2% and had a temporary assessment of 1.1%.

USDA ARS Funds

The majority of the Center's funding is part of the USDA ARS Northwest Small Fruits Research budget of \$6.4 million and includes funds for USDA researchers, the

Small Fruits Initiative and a portion of the NCSFR competitive grants program (approximately \$700,000). Other than noted above, these funds remain intact at the present time and continue to provide stability and infrastructure for many of the Center activities. The FY 2012 budget is not yet passed by Congress.

Impact of Losing USDA NIFA Funds

The immediate results include:

- 1) Funding for competitive research has been reduced from approximately \$1 million to \$700,000 which means only 2nd and 3rd year projects were funded in FY 2011. No new research projects were able to be included. Subsequently, the annual request for new research proposals to be funded in FY 2012 as well as the peer review process was cancelled.
- 2) The annual contract for administrative services for the Center ended in mid August. However, OSU was able to contribute partial funding for the 2011-12 FY from another internal source, enabling the administrative office to continue operating for the time being. Organization of the annual conference is underway with a registration fee that has been moderately raised to help defray administrative costs.
- 3) Berry Grape Info Net. This valuable website will be able to be maintained for a few months, but without continued funding

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Conference Info

1) **Registration** (*Registration Form Enclosed*)

If you know you're coming, please feel free to fax, mail or email us your registration form - your registration fee can arrive separately.

2) **Main Conference Day**

(*Draft Schedule Enclosed*)

- Final Reports on Funded Projects
- Researcher Overview Seminars
- Poster Session for Funded Research
- Commodity Priority Review/Setting
- Funding for the Future Discussion
- Wine Tasting/Reception
- Dinner & Evening Presentation

Attendees of the NCSFR Annual Conference will have the opportunity to hear research reports and view poster presentations from projects covering genetics, berry & grape processing, wine processing, production/physiology, pest management and marketing; network with science and industry partners; and help set research priorities for the Center, which will be used for competitive research grant considerations next year.

3) **Research Priorities - Commodity Groups**

During the annual conference, time is set aside to revisit the research priorities. Please review them within your commodity groups prior to the conference and come prepared for discussion. To ensure balanced outcomes, we strongly encourage small fruit industry members to attend and participate in these research priority discussions. You can find copies of the most recent priorities at www.nwsmallfruits.org/priorities.html.

Commodity Group Request: Please email your proposed priority changes to us by **November 9, 2011** for inclusion in materials for the conference.

4) **Committee Meetings** (*Friday morning*)

- Stakeholder Council (formerly Advisory)
- Liaison Committee
- Coordinating Committee

Location

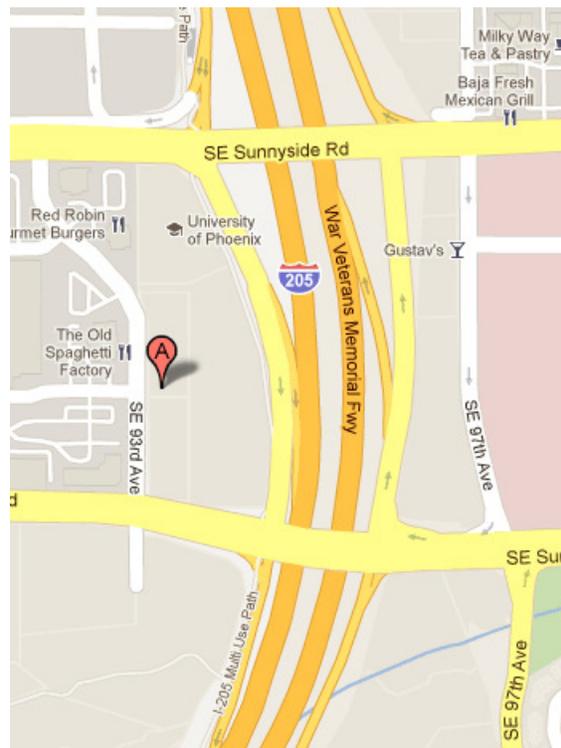
December 1: Main conference day,
December 2: Committee meetings



I-205 at Sunnyside Road/Sunnybrook Blvd.
12566 SE 93rd Ave., Portland/Clackamas
503-652-1515 or 1-800-492-8700
www.monarchhotel.cc

We have a block of rooms with singles and doubles for \$89. Call **1-800-492-8700** and ask for the rate for the Northwest Center for Small Fruits Research.
Nov. 4th is the discount deadline.

Check In: After 3:00 PM Check Out: noon
Parking: Free. Airport Transportation: Free
To/From Portland Airport (PDX)



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support, the links and uploaded materials won't be updated, and it will become out of date as time goes on.

- 4) The Liaison Committee will be meeting during the annual conference to discuss whether there continues to be value in the annual trip to DC to meet with Congress and USDA to discuss federal funding.

The NCSFR Model

NCSFR has been touted by the USDA as a model for regional agricultural research. The process that the Center uses for determining industry research priorities, evaluating and selecting research proposals through regional peer review, and presenting research results has been effective in addressing a broad spectrum of important issues that are specifically relevant to small fruits in the Pacific Northwest. With \$1 million in competitive grant funds available annually, NCSFR has been able to recommend 30-40 individual projects per year. The Center's process has worked well and provided the small fruits industry with valuable research in genetics, production physiology, pest and disease management, and food science. The loss of a key earmark for the Center has undermined its ability to continue the high level of research support.

The Role of Congress

Over the years, members of Congress in Oregon, Washington and Idaho have been extremely supportive of the Center. They have been instrumental in ensuring a stable funding stream for the past two decades. In recent years, Congress has asked for more accountability for federal research funds. The Center obliged by requiring Research Impact Statements for all funded research. The excellent results that were realized on many of NCSFR's funded projects have been useful tools for the PNW Congress in ensuring continued federal funding. The

Research Impact Statements the Center provides to Congress have instilled confidence that the funds they have authorized and appropriated for small fruits Ag research are being spent wisely, and are improving and strengthening the agriculture industry in the PNW. We need look no further than the Center for an example of responsible and successful use of the federal earmark system.

Pacific Northwest Annual Peer Review

The Center has also been supported by the USDA NIFA and ARS in holding regional peer reviews to evaluate research proposals. Although the USDA ultimately decides how the competitive grant funds are spent, they have valued and trusted the Center's process for evaluating and scoring proposals. The peer review panels, comprised of PNW university and ARS scientists, as well as members of industry, follow specific guidelines for scoring that ensure the highest quality projects are identified for funding. With the loss of NIFA competitive grant funds, the Center will have to work closely with ARS to determine how best to proceed with the evaluation and recommendation process.

Future Funding Options

There is no certainty at this point that the Center's NIFA earmarks will return in 2013. With the loss of these valuable allocations, the small fruits industry in the PNW is losing ground because new research priorities can not be addressed in a timely manner. Because of this, we are exploring other funding options for the Center including a Specialty Crops Research Initiative grant.

There will be a special session at the annual conference to discuss funding alternatives. This will be an opportunity for all members of industry to contribute their ideas.



Paul Lanquist, artist

Call for Oregon Wines for the Annual Conference

Every year the NCSFR Annual Conference holds a wine tasting/reception in the evening. As is the tradition, the winemakers of the hosting state provide the wine for the event. So, we are putting out a formal request to the Oregon wineries to please let us know if you can bring some of your latest and greatest vintages to share with our members. A mix of reds and whites would be greatly appreciated. Thanks!

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NCSFR

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REGISTRATION FORM 2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There is a new
 Fill-In Form
 available at
 nwsmallfruits.org

MONARCH HOTEL • PORTLAND/CLACKAMAS

12566 SE 93rd Ave. • Portland, OR 97015 • Phone: 503-652-1515 or 1-800-492-8700

THU 12/1 MAIN CONFERENCE DAY FRI 12/2 COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NOTE: If you plan to attend, please contact us at your earliest convenience. Feel free to fax us your registration form ahead of time - your registration fee can arrive separately. We need a headcount for attendance and tours and would appreciate hearing from you as soon as possible. Thanks!

Conference Registration Fee Includes: Pre-conference wine tour and evening event; all conference sessions, lunch, evening reception, and conference proceedings that will be mailed when published.

EARLY REGISTRATION DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND
For registration refund, cancellation must be made by Friday, November 11th

Name (One form per attendee): _____ Spouse/guest*: _____

Institute or Agency: _____

Department or Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Check for special food requests. Please specify: _____

	Conference Fee	Total
Pre-Registration	\$ 115	\$
Late Registration	\$ 125	\$
Student/Grad-Student Rate <i>Salaried technicians do not qualify for this rate.</i>	\$ 65	\$
*Dinner/reception for non-attending spouse/guest	\$ 30	\$
Total		\$

Please Make Check Payable To: Pacific Northwest Administration (We do not take VISA)

FOR OFFICE USE	<input type="checkbox"/> Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check# _____ Date paid ____/____/____	Notes _____ _____ _____
	For Checks: <input type="checkbox"/> Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> Personal	
	Name on check _____	
	Total Payment: Individual \$ _____ Group \$ _____	

NORTHWEST CENTER FOR SMALL FRUITS RESEARCH

2011 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS - PORTLAND, OR

Thursday, December 1		DRAFT
● 7:00 - 8:00 am	Breakfast Briefing Priority Setting officers and section chairs only please	Troutdale 218
● 7:15 am	Registration Opens	Upper Lobby
● 8:00 - 8:45 am ^{45m}	General Session – Small Fruits Updates Donn Thill, Mike Kahn, Larry Curtis, Sally Schneider, Bob Martin	Clackamas Columbia
● 9:00 - 10:40 am ^{100m}	5 Research Project Final Reports	Clackamas Columbia
● 10:40 - 10:55 am ^{15m}	Break	
● 11:00 - 12:30 pm ^{90m}	5 Research Project Final Reports	Clackamas Columbia
● 12:30 - 2:15 pm	Lunch & Priority Setting Pick up box lunch and attend Priority Setting Sessions of your choice	Ballroom Foyer
● 12:55 - 1:35 pm ^{40m}	Priority Setting Sessions I ♦ Raspberry, Blackberry & Specialty Crops	Clackamas Columbia
	♦ Wine	Sandy Willamette
● 1:35 - 2:15 pm ^{40m}	Priority Setting Sessions II ♦ Blueberry, Cranberry, Strawberry	Clackamas Columbia
	♦ Grape Viticulture	Sandy Willamette
● 2:30 - 4:45 pm ^{80m}	Future Funding for the Center - Discussion & Presentations	Clackamas Columbia
● 4:45 - 5:00 pm ^{15m}	Break	
● 5:00 - 6:00 pm ^{60m}	Interactive Poster Session – Researchers will be on hand to discuss their continuing projects Wine, Berry Grape Processing, Production Physiology, Genetics, Pest Management	Sandy Willamette
● 6:00 pm	Wine Tasting	Clackamas
● 6:45 - 9:00 pm	Dinner & Presentations	Columbia
Friday, December 2		
● 7:00 - 8:00 am	Stakeholder Council Meeting	Sandy Willamette
● 8:00 - 9:30 am	Liaison Committee Breakfast Meeting Breakfast	Sandy Willamette
● 9:30 - 11:00 am	Coordinating Committee Meeting	Sandy Willamette