



**Northwest Center**  
FOR SMALL FRUITS RESEARCH

# 2025

## NCSFR AWARDEES

Our funding cycles follow the federal calendar from October to September 30th. However, projects can commence in the season they were applied for (May - April) to avoid losing a year of work in the timeline.

The NCSFR provides a forum for Northwest small fruits producers, processors and wineries to address regional problems, set research funding priorities, and direct limited federal dollars to leverage state-funded programs to find real solutions for pressing small fruit agricultural problems.

**Please note:** It's optional to present a poster presentation in person during the 2025 NCSFR conference due to current project budget limitations.



**Website**  
[nsmallfruits.org](http://nsmallfruits.org)



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[info@nwberries.org](mailto:info@nwberries.org)

# Welcome

We created this guide to help awardees understand the various categories for the NCSFR funding cycles. After viewing this document, if you have any additional questions please contact the [administrators](#)

We have listed all awardees in this booklet; ranging from first time applicants, to continuing and final year awarded projects.



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These are new research projects that have been funded by the NCSFR in the last year.

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These are multi-year projects that have been awarded for two or more years.

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These research projects in this section are obligated to do an oral presentation, reporting on final year of project at our Annual NCSFR Conference (typically a November date).

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These research projects are specific to public plant breeding, horticulture, and food science programs at WSU, OSU, and USDA-ARS. These projects provide essential support for the competitiveness and profitability of PNW small fruit growers, packers, and nurseries.

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These are projects that have applied for a NCE to complete research outside of it's standard funding cycle. If you need a NCE, please contact the [USDA-ARS](#) at and the [funding administrator](#).



# First Time Awardees & Expectations:

***No new project funding  
available in 2025***

**Please note:** NCSFR hopes to fund new projects next year but the federal budget is still being developed so we must wait for guidance.

QUESTIONS?

[info@nwberries.org](mailto:info@nwberries.org)

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# Continuing Funded Projects

## NEXT TASK: POSTER PRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE

Research projects in this section are required to do a **poster presentation** (reporting on progress year(s) of funding) at the Annual NCSFR Conference in November.

**For 2025 Conference ONLY:** It's optional to present a poster presentation in person during the 2025 NCSFR conference due to current project budget limitations. Electronic posters and abstracts are still required.

All continuing funded projects require an abstract submitted in October of each year to be included in the conference proceedings.

If you received final year funding (year 1 of 1, year 2 of 2, or year 3 of 3) you are obligated to submit a final report in our funding portal at the end of the that final year. Final reports are due at the end of October of the final funding year.

Multi-year projects (year 1 of 2, year 1 of 3, or year 2 of 3) are obligated to submit a progress report through our funding portal. Progress reports are due in March of each year project continues.

[Poster Presentation: Overview and Outline](#)

## QUESTIONS?

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## Continuing Funded Projects



Research projects listed below are required to do a **poster presentation** 2025 Annual NCSFR Conference in November.

YEAR	PI/ AFFILIATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	CROP
2 of 2	Michael Hardigan, USDA-ARS	Genomic and phenomic technologies for evaluating and identifying root lesion nematode ( <i>Pratylenchus penetrans</i> ) resistance in red raspberry	Berries
2 of 2	Michael Hardigan, USDA-ARS	Gene annotation and discovery in Pacific Northwest blackberry cultivars.	Berries
2 of 2	Michelle Moyer, WSU	What is Old is New Again: Effects of UV-C Germicidal Light, and Sulfur, on Powdery Mildew Management	Grapes
2 of 3	Bhaskar Bondada, WSU	Grapevine trunk diseases: Towards achieving sustainable management through understanding the structural biology of scion-rootstock-pathogen interactions	Grapes
2 of 3	David Bryla, USDA-ARS	Crop Coefficients for Accurately Scheduling Irrigation in Different Blueberry Cultivars	Berries
2 of 3	Jana Lee, USDA-ARS	Field phenology and virus transmission of blueberry aphids in Oregon and Washington	Berries
2 of 3	Arianna Bozzolo, Rodale Institute	Expanding aronia and elderberry production on subprime land in the Pacific Northwest	Berries
2 of 3	Lisa Wasko DeVetter, WSU	Beat the Heat: Protecting Blueberry Pollination during Extreme Heat Events	Berries
2 of 3	Naidu Rayapati, WSU	A genomics-based, real-time tracking and surveillance system to manage grapevine leafroll disease in Pacific Northwest vineyards.	Grapes
2 of 3	Pete Jacoby, WSU	Enhancing Vineyard Drought Resilience and Soil Regeneration through Sensor-driven Scheduling of Deep Subsurface Drip Irrigation	Grapes
2 of 3	Qingyang Wang, OSU	Far-UV (222 nm) technology for controlling pre- and post-harvest fruit decay and reducing food safety risks of berries	Berries

## Continuing Funded Projects



Research projects listed below are required to do a **poster presentation** 2025 Annual NCSFR Conference in November.

YEAR	PI/ AFFILIATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	CROP
2 of 3	Rui Liu, WSU	Integrated Weed Management for Washington State Blueberry and Grape Production	Berries and Grapes
3 of 3	Walt Mahaffee, USDA-ARS	Lighting the way: Exploring the use of germicidal ultraviolet light (UV-C) for the management of grape powdery mildew and Botrytis bunch rot.	Grapes
3 of 3	Tom Walters, Walters Ag Research	Assessing and Managing Blueberry Scorch Virus in Washington and Oregon	Berries
3 of 3	Alex Levin, OSU	Distribution and abundance of plant-parasitic nematodes in Oregon vineyards	Grapes
3 of 3	Alex Karasev, Uofl	Impact of grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3 genetic variants and emerging viruses on wine grape quality in the Pacific Northwest	Grapes
3 of 3	Achala KC, OSU	Investigating the native populations of biocontrol agents from PNW vineyards towards developing region specific biocontrol products for major grapevine diseases	Grapes
3 of 3	Patty Skinkis, OSU	Evaluating Rootstocks for Cool-Climate White Wine Grape Production	Grapes
3 of 3	David Bryla, USDA-ARS	Calcium Application and Its Effect on Yield and Fruit Quality of Blueberry, Raspberry, and Blackberry	Berries



# Final Year Projects

## NEXT TASK: ORAL PRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE

Research projects in this section are required to do **an oral presentation**, reporting on final year of project at our Annual NCSFR Conference in November.

This final year of funding (year 1 of 1, year 2 of 2, or year 3 of 3) you are obligated to submit a final report in our funding portal at the end of the that final year. Final reports are due at the end of October of the final funding year. Proceedings abstract is also due at the end of October.

[Oral Presentation : Overview and Outline](#)

QUESTIONS?

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## Final Year Projects



Research projects listed below are required to do an **oral presentation** 2025 Annual NCSFR Conference in November.

PI/ AFFILIATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	CROP
David Bryla, USDA-ARS	Irrigation Strategies for Handling Heat and Improving Production, Plant Health, and Cold Hardiness in Trailing Blackberry	Berries
Now managed by Walt Mahaffee, USDA-ARS	Identifying genetic resistance to blueberry shock virus and the role of the newly identified luteovirus in recurrence of shock symptom	Berries
Franck Carbonero, WSU	Investigating the role of microbiome and metabolome in the prebiotic and urinary tract infection preventative effect of cranberry juice	Berries
Markus Keller, WSU	Testing drought and heat mitigation strategies for vineyards	Grapes
Matthew Clark, UMN	Evaluation of novel cold hardy grape rootstocks for use in the Pacific Northwest	Grapes
Michael Qian, OSU	Optimal irrigation initiation time based on grape and wine composition and quality	Grapes
Rebecca Bunn, West WA	Establishment and cultivar-specific associations of mycorrhizal fungi in newly-turned raspberry fields	Berries
Stephen Cook, Uofl	Identifying Huckleberry Pollinators and the Impact of Soil Amendment Treatments	Berries
James Woodhall, Uofl	Characterization and epidemiology of Grapevine Trunk Diseases (GTD) in Idaho	Grapes
Virginia Stockwell, USDA-ARS	Are overwintering cane botrytis lesions a primary inoculum source for Botrytis in red raspberry fields?	Berries

## Final Year Projects



Research projects listed below are required to do an **oral presentation** 2025 Annual NCSFR Conference in November.

PI/ AFFILIATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	CROP
Jooyeoun Jung, OSU	Development of advanced package for ensuring post-harvest storability of soft strawberry cultivars grown in the Northwest (NW) region	Berries
Amanda Davis, OSU	Impact of primocane management and plant spacing on planting performance and economic returns of 'Columbia Star' blackberry	Berries
Chakradhar Mattupalli, WSU	Determining critical stages for Botrytis infection in highbush blueberries	Berries
David Bryla, USDA-ARS	Calcium Application and Its Effect on Yield and Fruit Quality of Blueberry, Raspberry, and Blackberry	Berries
Ryan Contreras, OSU	Characterizing ploidy and pollen of caneberry cultivars, advanced selections, and hybrids to support breeding	Berries
Pete Jacoby, WSU	Optimizing Water Use for Winegrapes with Sensor-controlled Subsurface Irrigation	Grapes
James Osborne	Impact of <i>Pediococcus</i> on wine chemical and sensory properties	Grapes
Virginia Stockwell, USDA-ARS	Assessing the role of <i>Gnomoniopsis idaeicola</i> and other fungal cane blight pathogens in Blackberry Collapse	Berries
Bhaskar Bondada, WSU	Understanding the onset of systemic infection of Red Blotch virus and phenotypic studies of grapevines expressing a Red Blotch virus infectious clone	Grapes
Naidu Rayapati, WSU	Tracking genetic variants of Grapevine leafroll-associated virus 3 for Disease Prevention and Control in Pacific Northwest vineyards	Grapes
Patty Skinkis, OSU	The Yield-Quality Paradigm: Using Long-Term, Multi-Vineyard Data to Understand Yield Management into the Future	Grapes



# Plant Improvement Initiative Projects

## NEXT TASK: POSTER PRESENTATION AT CONFERENCE

These research projects are always funded by the NCSFR and specific to public plant breeding, horticulture, and food science programs at WSU, OSU, and USDA-ARS.

These projects provide essential support for the competitiveness and profitability of PNW small fruit growers, packers, and nurseries.

A poster presentation at our Annual conference in November and a progress report in March of the following year for PII projects.

\*Conference proceedings abstract is not required for PII projects.

[Poster Presentation: Overview and Outline](#)

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## PII Projects



PI/ AFFILIATION	PROPOSAL TITLE	CROP
Scott Lukas, OSU	Evaluation of small fruit germplasm at the North Willamette Research & Extension Center, Oregon State University	PII
Wendy Hoashi-Erhardt, WSU	Small Fruit Breeding in the Pacific Northwest	PII
Currently managed by Scott Lukas	Quality Evaluation of Berry Selections and Varieties*	PII

*\* After discussions with the OSU Food Science Department, USDA/OSU-Breeding programs will transition to perform fresh and frozen fruit quality evaluation at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center.*