



# Horticulture 2022

## Wrap Up

## Rep. Schrier announces \$72.9 million in Specialty Crop Block Grant, meets with local growers

SUBMITTED BY OFFICE OF CONGRESSWOMAN KIM SCHRIER

WENATCHEE - On January 25 Congresswoman Kim Schrier, M.D. (WA-08) was in Wenatchee with USDA Under Secretary Jenny Lester Moffitt to announce the availability of \$72.9 million through the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP). This program funds innovative projects designed to support the expanding specialty crop sector and explore new market opportunities for U.S. food and agricultural products. The 8th District is home to over 4,000 farms.

"I was thrilled to welcome Under Secretary Moffitt to the 'Apple Capital of the World' to make this announcement about Specialty Crop Block Grants. The Block Grant program has been crucial to our state's tree fruit industry," said Rep. Schrier. "Cutting edge research at Washington State University on sustainable growing practices benefits Washington state and the country. Because specialty crops represent such a large share of Washington state's economy, I will continue to work with my colleagues on the House Agriculture Committee to ensure robust funding for these research grants every year."

"These specialty crop block grants will help states and territories target resources locally to increase the competitiveness of the specialty crops sector and support spe-



Courtesy Congresswoman Kim Schrier office  
**Under Secretary Moffitt (left) and Rep. Schrier (right) at Stemilt Growers in Wenatchee for the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program announcement.**

cialty crop growers through marketing, education, and research," said Under Secretary Moffitt. "Since 2006 when the program began, USDA has invested more than \$953 million through these block grants to fund nearly 11,000 projects that increased the long-term success of producers and created new and better markets for specialty crops in the U.S. and abroad."

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service encourages applications that serve smaller farms and ranches, new and beginning farmers and ranchers, socially disadvantaged producers, veteran producers, and/or underserved communities. For more information about grant eligibility, visit the SCBGP website or contact the SCBGP Team at scbgrants@usda.gov.

Before the announcement, Rep. Schrier and Under Secretary Moffitt visited Washington State University's Wenatchee Tree Fruit Re-

search and Extension Center to learn about research projects at the Center that have been funded by the SCBGP.

Some WSU research projects in recent years funded by the SCBGP were:

- Apple Precision Crop Load - Stefano Musacchi
- Fireblight and Little Cherry Disease Management - Tianna DuPont
- Little Cherry Disease and Pear Psylla Management - Louie Nottingham
- Decision Support for Managing Climate Risks in Tree-Fruit - Chad Kruger (Rajagopalan, V. Jones, Kalcsits)

After the announcement, Rep. Schrier and Under Secretary Moffitt visited Pybus Market for a roundtable discussion with Washington State Department of Agriculture and growers from Wenatchee to talk about the benefits of the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program and make sure growers can access the critical research.

## Dr. Faviola Barbosa named new WAEF executive director

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER WITHERBEE, WAEF

WENATCHEE - The Washington Apple Education Foundation (WAEF) announces the hiring of Dr. Faviola Barbosa as its new executive director. Feb. 1 was Barbosa's first day in this role with the tree fruit industry's charity.

"On behalf of the WAEF board of directors, I am thrilled to welcome Faviola Barbosa as the new executive director of WAEF. Her excitement and passion to work with students is easily conveyed when she shares what it means to be able to impact lives through access to educational opportunities," shared WAEF chairman Laurie Knebusch. "When the selection committee met Faviola and learned about her deep ties in the tree fruit industry paired with her career background working in education, we knew we had found WAEF's next executive director," she added. Knebusch led the search committee process that began in mid-October.

Dr. Barbosa worked within the Washington State Community & Technical Colleges system for over 18 years. Her



**Dr. Faviola Barbosa**

passion has been to promote higher education to students from an early age. She believes this position is a perfect fit for her and stated the following, "I am so excited about the opportunity to promote access and support to students from the tree fruit industry pursuing higher education. Furthermore, I look forward to working with such an amazing team and industry, continuing to strengthen the WAEF mission."

Dr. Barbosa migrated from Mexico to the United States with her family at the age of 2.

She grew up within the farm-working industry in Orondo, Washington, and is a first-generation Latinx. She earned a BA in Business Administration from Washington State University, an MS in College Student Affairs from Nova Southeastern University, and a Doctorate in Leadership in Higher Education from Capella University.

Barbosa is the fourth executive director in the foundation's 28-year history. She follows outgoing executive director Jennifer Witherbee who served in the position for over 20 years. Witherbee will remain on staff at WAEF in a support role for a few weeks to assist with the transition.

*The Washington Apple Education Foundation is the charity of the tree fruit industry. Its mission is to impact lives through access to educational opportunities. WAEF relies on voluntary donations from over 400 contributors annually and the efforts of 200 committed volunteers.*

More information about WAEF is found at [www.waef.org](http://www.waef.org) or by calling the foundation office at 509-663-7713.

## Deadline for agricultural land easements Feb. 25

SUBMITTED BY USDA

SPOKANE VALLEY - The Natural Resources Conservation Service in Washington is currently accepting applications for the Agricultural Conservation Easements Program-Agricultural Lands Easement (ACEP-ALE). Ap-

plications must be submitted by close of business Feb. 25 to be considered for fiscal year 2022 funding.

Through ACEP-ALE, the Natural Resources Conservation Service provides funds to eligible entities so they can purchase permanent easements that protect the agri-

cultural use and conservation value of the land.

These easements prevent productive working lands from being converted to non-agricultural uses, while supporting and maximizing the protection of land devoted

SEE EASEMENTS ON PAGE A3

## UPCOMING EVENTS - FEBRUARY 16-MARCH 9

### Little cherry disease day

February 16

ELLENSBURG - The 2022 Little Cherry Disease Day will take place on February 16.

This free event organized by WSU Extension.

Please join them for an intensive dive into the latest research and recommended management for X-disease and Little Cherry Disease.

Hear from WSU, OSU, USDA, WSDA and industry experts. Participate in facilitated discussion.

This hybrid format event will be held February 16, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Kittitas Valley Event Center, 901 E. 7th Ave #1, in Ellensburg.

#### Registration

Must pre-register for in-person attendance at the following link <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-little-cherry-disease-day-tickets-260704573397>

Limited to 50 people. No on-site registration. Virtual attendance is also available.

#### Virtual Attendance

Virtual Attendance: No registration required. Webinar link for remote view-

ing is <https://wsu.zoom.us/j/93964773635>

With the increasing cases of Omicron virtual participation is encouraged.

#### Covid-19 precautions:

In order to accommodate folks they are planning to have the event available simultaneously via webinar.

- Virtual participation is encouraged.

- In person participants will be asked to mask and social distance.

- Stay home if you are sick.

- Vaccine boosters are encouraged.

WSU will provide hand sanitizer at entrances and a limited supply of disposable medical masks/ KN95s on hand for people that have misplaced their own mask.

The wearing of cloth masks, neck gaiters, or bandanas is no longer considered an effective face covering. To mitigate the spread of Omicron, the use of a high-quality mask is important. This means at a bi-layer medical-style mask or a KN95 should be worn when indoors.

Check the website before

coming for changes to meeting status.

#### Agenda topics:

- Pathogen biology and distribution

- Scouting and sampling for X-disease and Little Cherry Disease

- New projects focused on early detection of LCD

- USDA-Research updated

- Transmission and vector management

- Groundcover management

- Tree removal and replanting

### WSU Grapevine Cold Hardiness walk-In clinic

February 17

PROSSER - Join us for a grapevine cold damage walk-in clinic on Thursday February 17, 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at WSU Prosser IAREC. Brush up on your bud assessment skills, or bring in your own materials for inspection!

More information at: <https://wine.wsu.edu/event/grape-cold-hardiness-walk-in-clinic/>

Other Grape Cold Hardiness Resources:

- Grapevine Cold Hardiness Monitoring and Response webpage at: <https://wine.wsu.edu/extension/weather/cold-hardiness/>

- Grapevine Cold Hardiness Model at AgWeatherNet. (Under "Models").

**WSU Viticulture Extension Impact Survey**

Help us, help you! WSU Viticulture Extension would like to know how we are doing, and importantly, what we can do for you in the future. Please consider taking our 15 minute survey. Feel free to share the link with others.

Survey: [https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_7UJxqUDunNcCQm](https://wsu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_7UJxqUDunNcCQm)

**Next Generation Tree Fruit network event**

February 22

WENATCHEE - Bringing economics to the table February 22, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m., at the Pybus Public Market Event Center - Boardroom, 3 N Worthen St, in Wenatchee.

Take a closer look at the economics of your orchard. A panel presentation of about 45 minutes will be given by three speakers, Dave Gleason, Jeff Cleveringa, and Dale Goldy. This will be followed by a facilitated discussion, networking, and lunch.

We will discuss factors influencing block removal, internal and external threats to making a profit, and tools to aid in new variety replanting decisions. Bring your experiences to discuss. Lunch is provided sponsored by NCW Fieldmen's Assoc.

**Speakers:** Dave Gleason is the horticulturist and proprietary variety developer for Domex Superfresh Growers. He has focused on pest and disease management, all aspects of orchard management and development, and new apple variety development and management. Jeff Cleveringa heads the research and development for Starr Ranch Growers based in Wenatchee. He coordinates future orchard plantings for company ranches and oversees Starr Ranch's club varieties JUICI® and Karma® globally. Dale Goldy is currently the partner and president of Gold Crown Nursery, LLC and G2 Orchards, LLC. He has extensive experience testing new varieties, negotiating commercialization contracts,

and working to develop the horticultural practices that make premium fruit.

North Central Washington Fieldmen's Association and WSU Extension are sponsoring the Next Generation Tree Fruit Network, supporting the Future Faces of Farming. The aim is to offer educational opportunities for Young and Next Generation Growers, Managers & Field staff.

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**Registration**

To register, please visit <http://treefruit.wsu.edu/event/bringing-economics-to-the-table/> for more information or directly to <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bringing-economics-to-the-table-tickets-238792002307>.

For more information contact Adrian Marshall at 509- 860-6752 [atmarshall@wsu.edu](mailto:atmarshall@wsu.edu).

Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination. Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local Extension office. Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact Aina Baro Sabe at 509-293-8792 [aina.barosabe@wsu.edu](mailto:aina.barosabe@wsu.edu) at least two weeks prior to the event.

SEE EVENTS ON PAGE A3

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## Horticulture 2022 Wrap Up

# Over \$1M in scholarships available to students raised in tree fruit industry families

SUBMITTED BY JENNIFER WITHERBEE, WAEF

WENATCHEE - The Washington Apple Education Foundation (WAEF) scholarship application is currently open and available to students raised in tree fruit industry families with plans to attend college in the fall of 2022. Annually, WAEF awards over \$1 million in scholarships on behalf of Washington's tree fruit growers, packers, shippers and suppliers to college-bound and college-enrolled students. The application must be submitted in its entirety by March 1, 2022 for consideration. Students qualify for WAEF scholarships based on their own or their parent(s)/legal guardian(s) employment in Washington's tree fruit industry and/or if the applicant plans to work in the tree fruit industry upon completion of their college degree. Employment in the tree fruit industry includes jobs in orchards, warehouses, suppliers and service providers to the tree fruit industry. It also includes ownership of orchards and warehouses.

WAEF scholarships are established by industry employers, families and community members to support students. Each award has a unique set of criteria that can be found on the foundation's website scholarship page, [www.waef.org/scholarships](http://www.waef.org/scholarships).

Scholarships through WAEF are provided to students pursuing two- and four-year degrees at accredited colleges and universities and to students seeking program certifications from non-profit technical and vocational colleges. Field of study is not limited. Traditionally, 75%+ of WAEF scholarship recipients are first-generation

students. Financial need is a strong consideration for many awards managed by WAEF. Additionally, academics, extra-curricular involvement, character references and student short answers and essays are all factored in the selection process.

To apply for WAEF scholarships, students complete one of two forms depending upon the type of education sought. The Universal Application Form is used by community college or university bound students. Students attending a vocational/technical college or a community college certificate program complete the Vocational/Technical application, so long as they are pursuing one of the programs listed on the application. Details about each application are available at [www.waef.org/scholarships](http://www.waef.org/scholarships).

In addition to financial support, students selected to receive WAEF scholarships are provided access to professional development workshops, mentoring, career preparation activities and regular encouragement and support. Students may renew WAEF scholarship support for up to four undergraduate years upon meeting renewal conditions.

For more information on applying for WAEF scholarships or offering a scholarship through WAEF, contact the foundation office at (509) 663-7713 or at [scholarships@waef.org](mailto:scholarships@waef.org).

The Washington Apple Education Foundation is the charity of Washington's tree fruit industry. Its mission is to impact lives through access to education. Since founding WAEF, the industry has provided scholarships to over 3,000 students valued at over \$11 million.

# USDA announces inaugural Federal Advisory Committee on Urban Agriculture

Washington state represented, 1st meeting late Feb.

SUBMITTED BY USDA

WASHINGTON - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack selected 12 members to serve on the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) inaugural Secretary's Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture to provide input on policy development and to help identify barriers to urban agriculture as USDA works to promote urban farming and the economic opportunities it provides in cities across the country.

The new Secretary's Advisory Committee is part of USDA's efforts to support urban agriculture, creating a network for feedback. Urban agriculture plays an important role in producing fresh, healthy food in areas where grocery stores are scarce, and also provides jobs and beautifies neighborhoods.

"Urban agriculture has been growing in impact and importance, and we are taking bold actions to build a support structure," said Vilsack. "I look forward to learning how we can better serve urban agricultural producers, which will complement our efforts focusing on equity, local food systems, access to safe and nutritional food and new ways to address climate change."

U.S. Sen. Debbie Stabenow, Chairwoman of the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry, was the architect of the Urban Agriculture Act of 2016. The Act laid the groundwork for historic investments to address the needs of urban farmers in the 2018 Farm Bill, including the Secretary's Advisory Committee.

"With every new urban

farm, rooftop garden, and indoor crop, urban agriculture is helping create jobs, increase green space, and feed friends and neighbors," said Senator Stabenow. "Michigan has long been a leader in urban agriculture. I'm so glad Jerry and others will be able to lend their expertise and wealth of experience to help grow this important sector. This is a historic opportunity to have their voices heard and shape urban agriculture for the future."

### Secretary's Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture

The Committee is made up of agricultural producers, and representatives from the areas of higher education or extension programs, non-profits, business and economic development, supply chains and financing.

#### Members include:

Jerry Ann Hebron, Michigan, Urban Producer  
Bobby Wilson, Georgia, Urban Producer  
Viraj Puri, New York, Innovative Producer  
Kaben Smallwood, Oklahoma, Innovative Producer  
Sally Brown, Washington, Higher Education  
John Erwin, Maryland, Higher Education  
Carl Wallace, Ohio, Non-Profit Representative  
John Lebeaux, Massachusetts, Business and Economic Development Representative  
Zachari Curtis, D.C., Supply Chain Experience  
Allison Paap, California, Financing Entity Representative  
Tara Chadwick, Florida, Related Experience  
Angela Mason, Illinois, Related Experience  
USDA and the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production peer reviewed more than 300 nominees, and Vilsack made the final se-

lections. Selections ensured geographic, racial and gender diversity and a broad range of agricultural experience. The new members will serve terms of one to three years.

The first meeting of this inaugural committee, which will be open to the public, will take place in late February. More details will be available in the Federal Register and at [farmers.gov/urban](http://farmers.gov/urban) and the new Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture website at [www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-urban-ag-innovative-production](http://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-urban-ag-innovative-production).

### USDA and Urban Agriculture

The advisory committee and county committees are part of a broad USDA investment in urban agriculture. Other efforts include:

Grants that target areas of food access, education, business and start-up costs for new farmers, and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

Cooperative agreements that develop and test strategies for planning and implementing municipal compost plans and food waste reduction plans.

Investing \$260,000 for risk management training and crop insurance education for historically underserved and urban producers through partnerships between USDA's Risk Management Agency (RMA) and the University of Maryland, University of Connecticut, and Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems.

Providing technical and financial assistance through conservation programs offered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Organizing 11 Farm Ser-

vice Agency (FSA) urban and suburban county committees. FSA will organize additional committees.

The Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production was established through the 2018 Farm Bill. It is led by NRCS and works in partnership with numerous USDA agencies that support urban agriculture. Its mission is to encourage and promote urban, indoor, and other emerging agricultural practices, including community composting and food waste reduction. More information is available at [farmers.gov/urban](http://farmers.gov/urban) and the new Federal Advisory Committee for Urban Agriculture website at [www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-urban-ag-innovative-production](http://www.usda.gov/partnerships/advisory-committee-urban-ag-innovative-production).

Additional resources that may be of interest to urban agriculture entities include grants from USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture as well as FSA loans.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. Under the Biden-Harris Administration, USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy, and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](http://usda.gov).

## EASEMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A2

to food and fiber production. Cropland, rangeland, grassland, pastureland and non-industrial private forestland are all eligible for ACEP-ALE.

"We made great strides in our ACEP efforts last year, awarding more than \$1.1 million dollars across six contracts covering more than 3,000 acres across Washington," said Roylene Comes At Night, NRCS-Washington State Conservationist. "We're excited to

continue our momentum and increase our efforts in this program in Fiscal Year 2022."

Easement priority areas in Washington include critical threatened and endangered species, sage grouse habitat, grasslands, and more. NRCS will rank applications for fund-

ing consideration based on identified natural resource concerns and priority areas throughout the state.

Learn more about ACEP-ALE opportunities and how to apply in Washington by visiting the NRCS Washington ACEP ALE webpage.

## EVENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A2

### Organic management of postharvest decays webinar

March 9

WSU Tree Fruit Extension will hold a webinar on March 9 to learn about best management practices to fight pre and postharvest pathogens which continue to be a major concern in organic and conventional systems.

This event is targeted towards pome fruit growers, packers, field and warehouse workers, extension specialists, industry representatives, consultants and others inter-

ested in learning about early disease detection and best management practices in organic orchards and packing-houses to reduce the impact of postharvest rots and increase pack-out.

- Work done on a newly registered fungicide for conventional warehouses will be presented.
- Demonstration of a novel early infection detection assay.
- Pre and postharvest rot pathogens and best management practices in organic systems (e.g. cultural and sanitation practices, efficacy of multiple organic materials, and dynamic controlled atmosphere).
- Updated research on a novel postharvest conven-

tional fungicide will also be presented.

- The event includes presentations, activities, quizzes, and networking opportunities.
- Seven hours of training and interactive activities
- In this workshop participants will:
  - build a foundation for best management practices of major postharvest rots;
  - learn the latest research-based information for effective management;
  - learn how to optimize decay management in organic systems, i.e., choosing most effective materials and best time for sprays.
- This Workshop is sponsored by Washington State University Extension with

support from the Washington Tree Fruit Research Commission and Syngenta Crop Protection.

#### Registration

Registration required. To register visit [https://wsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_bobqDVLKS0ecyh40FF-B2sA](https://wsu.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bobqDVLKS0ecyh40FF-B2sA)

9 a.m. - Welcome: Objectives and overview of the program  
**Module I: Organic Systems: Trend and Challenges**

9:05 a.m. - Organic production: Trend: Production and Prices - Dr. David Granatstein, Extension Specialist, WSU

9:20 a.m. - Pathogens: Are they different from conventional systems - Dr. Prashant Swamy, Research Associate, WSU

Occurrence, Inoculum sources and timeline of fruit infections

9:50 a.m. Break

**Module II: Best Organic Management Practices**

10 a.m. - Efficacy of multiple commercial preharvest organic materials: What works, what doesn't - Dr. Achour Amiri, Assistant Professor, WSU

10:45 a.m. - When to spray preharvest to optimize decay management - Tianna DuPont, Extension Specialist, WSU

How to develop an effective and timely preharvest organic spray program?

11:15 a.m. - Hands-on Activity - Tianna DuPont, Extension Specialist, WSU

Identify the best organic spray program

**Module III: Dynamic Controlled Atmosphere**

11:30 a.m. - Does DCA work better than regular CA in reducing storage decays? - Dr. Achour Amiri, Assistant Professor, WSU

12 p.m. - Credits and Ad-

journal



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