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## *Washington State Grape Society July, 2006 E-News*

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### **Concord Grape Growers Eligible for USDA Benefits**

(Spokane, WA) - Washington's concord grape growers may be eligible to receive cash payments through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Farmers program. The Farm Service Agency is accepting applications in county offices from March 27 to June 26, 2006.

Under TAA for Farmers, USDA provides technical assistance and cash benefits to growers if an increase in imports of a like commodity has contributed importantly to a decline in price and a loss of income. The Foreign Agricultural Service determined that increased imports of concord grapes contributed importantly to a decline in domestic prices for concord grapes in Washington by more than 20 percent during marketing year 2004 (August 1, 2004 to July 31, 2005) when compared with the previous five-year average.

USDA will provide technical assistance to growers through Cooperative Extension. The Farm Service Agency (FSA) will issue payments to eligible growers. The preliminary payment rate is \$18.10 per ton.

Growers wishing to sign up for the TAA program must submit an application and production evidence by June 26. To be eligible, they must have documentation showing that their net farm income was less for marketing year 2004 than in 2003. Income documentation may be submitted after applying but is due by

September 29, 2006. Financial payments will not be disbursed until after applications are certified.

Concord grape growers in Washington may obtain a TAA application (FSA-229) from <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov/eforms/mainservlet>, or from their local Farm Service Agency service center.

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### **CTED Export Seminar**

On March 20, the Community Trade & Economic Development Office held an Export Seminar. Export information was provided regarding top export markets, how Washington state compares with other global economies and identified business sectors that are currently exporting and what goods & services will be "hot" exports in the future. Please check out the link below for additional information.

[http://www.cted.wa.gov/cted/documents/ID\\_3008\\_Publications.pdf](http://www.cted.wa.gov/cted/documents/ID_3008_Publications.pdf)

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### **JOHANN'S ANNOUNCES RELEASE OF FARM BILL COMMENT SUMMARIES**

WASHINGTON, March 29, 2006- Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announced that USDA has completed a summary of the public comments submitted verbally and in writing during USDA's Farm Bill Forum listening tour. The summaries will serve as a basis for USDA policy review and analysis in preparation for the 2007 farm bill.

"The best way to understand the challenges and opportunities in agriculture is to listen to the people whose lives are affected by the policies we enact," said

Johanns. "I'm very grateful to all those who shared their opinions. Our personnel worked hard to ensure every opinion expressed is represented in these papers, which will serve as the basis of review and analysis as we prepare for the next farm bill."

The effort to categorize the comments, while ensuring every opinion is represented, led to the development of 41 general subject areas. These formed the basis for the 41 summary papers. Each paper includes three sections: factual background data about the topic, a summary of general opinions expressed, and a list of specific suggestions that were conveyed. These papers are strictly summaries of the opinions and suggestions of those who submitted public comment.

Johanns announced that the next step for USDA in preparing for the 2007 farm bill is to glean from these summary documents a number of themes that warrant further analysis. The analysis of each theme, which will be led by USDA Chief Economist Dr. Keith Collins, will contain factual, unbiased information. Each analysis paper will be posted on the USDA web site when it is completed.

"I said at the outset of our nationwide tour that I hoped for an open, honest exchange of ideas about future farm policy and thousands of people responded to that request with thoughtful, candid comments," said Johanns. "My direction is to be very open and transparent about the analysis phase of our farm bill preparations. My hope is that each analysis paper can help to narrow the focus of our national conversation about future farm policy."

The first theme will be risk management. The public comments offer a broad array of ideas about how to best manage the risks associated with agriculture. Johanns noted in selecting risk management as a good first topic for analysis that farm businesses must manage risks effectively to be economically sustainable. Risks range from production losses due to weather or diseases, to shifts in product demand, to surges in production costs. Crop insurance, price and income support programs and ad hoc disaster assistance have been the primary federal financial tools to help producers manage risks and were the subject of repeated concerns throughout the comments.

Johanns and the leadership of USDA traveled the country last year to hear the opinions of producers and other stakeholders about future farm policy, receiving more than 4,000 comments. In total, 52 forums were conducted in 48 states, all but Mississippi and Louisiana where the focus during this period was on hurricane recovery. Johanns hosted 21 of the forums, participating in 66 hours of listening. Many people offered their comments verbally during one of the 52 farm bill forums, while others submitted comments through the USDA web site or traditional mail.

The summary papers announced today are available on the USDA website at [www.usda.gov](http://www.usda.gov). Transcripts of the Farm Bill Forums are also posted there.

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## **NEW WINE WORKSHOP BRINGS WINE INDUSTRY LEADERS TO THE PALOUSE**

PULLMAN, Wash -- "Marketing Washington Wines to the World" is the focus of a Washington State University Wine Researchers' Workshop sponsored by the International Marketing Program for the Agricultural Commodities and Trade (IMPACT) Center at WSU's Pullman campus on April 6.

The workshop brings together marketing, economics, viticulture and enology researchers to discuss their work and future plans for the Washington wine industry and will help identify issues Washington faces in the marketing of wines locally, nationally and internationally. Discussion across disciplines also will help to better identify key concerns and opportunities for collaboration in research, in addition to the marketing of Washington wines to promote economic growth and trade.

Speakers include Jeff Gordon, owner of Gordon Brothers Winery and chairman of the Washington Wine Commission; Orley Ashenfelter, Wine Economics, Princeton; Rachael Goodhue, director of the Robert Mondavi Center for Wine Business, University of California, Davis; and Anna Marin from the Food Innovation Center at Oregon State University. A full agenda is available at [www.impact.wsu.edu](http://www.impact.wsu.edu).

WSU's wine research planning committee includes Thomas I. Wahl, director of the IMPACT Center, as well as IMPACT fellow Jill McCluskey; Jean Johnson, professor of marketing; and Bill Hendrix, director of the Viticulture and Enology program and chair of the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture.

A reception featuring Washington Wines and catered by the WSU Hospitality School will be held at the conclusion of the workshop.

Due to limited seating, the workshop and the reception are by invitation only. Invited guests can pay the \$15 registration fee to the IMPACT Center for the wine reception by May 31.

The IMPACT Center continues to use science and technology to improve the competitiveness of Washington's and the Nation's food and agricultural systems in today's global market and in years to come.

This and other news releases from the WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences are available on our World Wide Web site. The URL is: <http://cahnrsnews.wsu.edu/> . Need an expert? Go to: <http://experts.wsu.edu/> .

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### **Farmland Conservation Grants**

WWRP Farmland Conservation grants are available to help cities and counties conserve working farms. In most Washington counties these grants will be the only funding source for farm conservation easements (other than a small share of the federal Farm and Ranchlands Protection Program). For more information see: <http://www.iac.wa.gov/iac/grants/farmland.htm>.

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### **Pesticide/ESA News**

The 2006 first quarter edition of *Pesticide/ESA News* is now available on-line at <http://agr.wa.gov/PestFert/docs/Vol4No1Mar15.pdf>

This quarter, WSDA provides you with an update of the Surface Water Monitoring Program, a discussion of some EPA Endangered Species Act activities that may impact you, and other interesting information regarding the protection of salmon in Washington state.

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