

## **WSU BIOAg Program Announces Nearly \$491,000 in FY2009 Grant Awards**

PULLMAN, Wash. – Research on how processing influences the nutritional quality of organic fruits, the use of predator insects to control wooly aphid in central Washington, assessment of renewable fertilizers recovered from anaerobic manure digestion and several education and outreach programs are among 28 projects granted funding for FY2009 through the Washington State University BIOAg program.

WSU's Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources, home of the BIOAg program, announced the grants to WSU faculty totaling \$490,943.

BIOAg is short for Biologically Intensive and Organic Agriculture. The program's purpose is to build sustainable agriculture for healthy farms, communities and ecosystems by fostering development and use of biologically intensive and organic practices. Sustainable agriculture is defined as being economically viable, environmentally sound and socially responsible.

The projects will be done in collaboration with more than 20 agricultural producers and several partners including the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, Oregon State University, Ag Canada, the Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network, Growing Washington and the Organic Seed Alliance.

"Many of these projects are aimed at developing or improving tools for producers and for the agricultural industry in general," said Lynne Carpenter-Boggs, coordinator for the WSU BIOAg program. "All of the research, education and extension outreach projects funded through these grants have stated short and long term goals for improving the sustainability of Washington agriculture."

The grants fall into five categories: Twelve research projects were funded under the "BIOAg Projects" category. Five "BIOAg Education" programs received funding, as did four "BIOAg Outreach Projects." Two projects received funding in the category of "Integrated BIOAg Projects." Funding was also awarded for five educational workshops and tours in the "BIOAg Learning Sites" category.

A full listing of the grant recipients and projects is provided below.

The WSU BIOAg program is funded by the State of Washington. More information about the program is available at <http://csanr.wsu.edu/BIOAg>

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## WSU CSANR BIOAg Program FY2009 Funded Projects

### BIOAg Projects:

- Project: Conservation Biology of Syrphids, Predators of Woolly Aphid in Central Washington.  
Recipient: Elizabeth Beers, Entomologist, Tree Fruit Research and Extension Center
- Project: Evaluation of Wheat Varieties for Mutualism with Endomycorrhizal Fungi to Improve Phosphorus Uptake.  
Recipient: Kim Campbell, Crop and Soil Sciences Department
- Project: Wheat Quality in Organic and Conventional Dryland Cropping Systems.  
Recipient: Pat Fuerst, Crop and Soil Sciences Department
- Project: Forecasting Late Blight for Northwestern Washington Organic Potato Production.  
Recipient: Debra Inglis, Plant Pathologist, Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center
- Project: Evaluating Soils Receiving Multiple Green Manures for Suppression of *Verticillium dahliae*  
Recipient: Andy McGuire, Extension Agricultural Systems Educator
- Project: Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) of Wheat Grown in Washington State.  
Recipient: Marcy Ostrom, Rural Sociology Dept./Small Farms Program Director
- Project: Nutritional Quality of Organic Fruits: Influence of Processing on Phenolic Compounds, Ascorbic Acid.  
Recipient: Shyam Sablani, Biological Systems Engineering Dept.
- Project: Regional Food Distribution System Enhancement Project.  
Recipient: Hector Saez, BIOAg Value-added Specialist, Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center
- Project: Winter Canola as a Rotation Crop in the Low and Intermediate Rainfall Regions of the Inland Pacific Northwest.  
Recipient: Bill Schillinger, Crop and Soil Sciences Department
- Project: Soil Carbon Sequestration Potential of Agricultural Systems Incorporating Biologically Based Techniques.  
Recipient: Claudio Stockle, Biological Systems Engineering Dept.
- Project: Identification of Root Disease-Causing Organisms and Their Management in Washington Raspberries.

Recipient: Tom Walters, Horticulturist, Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington  
Research and Extension Center

Project: Antibiotics in Animal Manure: A Challenge to Organic Cropping Systems.

Recipient: Jeffrey Ullman, Biological Systems Engineering Dept.

### **BIOAg Education**

Project: Plant Breeding for Organic Agriculture Extension Course.

Recipient: Steve Jones, Crop and Soil Sciences Dept.

Project: Land EKG Rangeland Monitoring Workshop.

Recipient: Don Nelson, Animal Sciences Dept.

Project: Weeklong Field Analysis of Sustainable Food Systems Course.

Recipient: Cathy Perillo, Crop and Soil Sciences Dept.

Project: Washington State Coordinator for Cultivating Success Course.

Recipient: Cathy Perillo, Crop and Soil Sciences Dept.

Project: Learning Organic Agriculture at WSU.

Recipient: John Reganold, Crop and Soil Sciences Dept.

### **Integrated BIOAg Projects**

Project: Assessment of Renewable Fertilizers from Anaerobic Digester Manure  
Nutrient Recovery.

Recipient: Shulin Chen, Biological Systems Engineering Dept.

Project: Assessment of Renewable Fertilizers from Anaerobic Digester Manure  
Nutrient Recovery.

Recipient: Pat Fuerst, Crop and Soil Sciences Dept.

### **BIOAg Outreach Projects**

Project: Building Soils for Better Crops Workshop.

Recipient: Andy McGuire, Extension Agricultural Systems Educator

Project: Cultivating Success Small Farming and Ranching Course.

Recipient: Pat Munts, Spokane County Extension Small Farms Coordinator

Project: Holistic Management Sustainability Conference: Creating a Sustainable  
Future for Agriculture in the Pacific Northwest.

Recipient: Don Nelson, Animal Sciences Dept.

Project: On-Farm Workshop on Food Fermentation.

Recipient: Hector Saez, BIOAg Value-added Specialist, Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center

### **BIOAg Learning Sites**

Project: Helping Hands, Healthy Community: A Harvest Education Project.  
Recipient: Clayton Burrows, WSU Small Farms Program

Project: Demonstration Improvements and Educational Aids for the Aeschliman Learning Site.  
Recipient: Hans Kok, WSU/UI Extension Conservation Tillage Specialist

Project: Short Course in Biodynamic Agriculture  
Recipient: Todd Murray, WSU King County Extension Entomologist

Project: 2009 BIOAg Tour: On-Site Demonstration of Farm Diversification and Sustainable Farming Practices.  
Recipient: Steve Van Vleet, WSU Whitman County Extension Educator

Project: Pasture Improvement through Pastured Poultry  
Recipient: Steve Van Vleet, WSU Whitman County Extension Educator