



# Capital Notes

Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives \* 9103 Chestnut Hill Lane SE \* Olympia, WA 98513

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## **Bills to boost export funding gain additional cosponsors NCFC urges member action**

*Editors Note: The following message from Washington, DC is provided by the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.*

Legislation strongly supported by NCFC that would boost funding for USDA export programs in order to encourage U.S. agricultural exports gained additional cosponsors this week in the House and Senate. In the House, Reps. Allen Boyd (D-FL) and George Nethercutt (R-WA) joined as cosponsors of H.R. 3593, "The Agricultural Market Access and Development Act," as introduced by Rep. Doc Hastings (R-WA). Boyd and Nethercutt are members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and are helping lead efforts in support of the bill. Sen. Max Cleland (D-GA) also joined in cosponsoring identical legislation (S. 1983) as introduced by Senators Patty Murray (D-WA) and Larry Craig (R-ID). Other cosponsors of S. 1983 include Senators Slade Gorton (R-WA), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Gordon Smith (R-OR), Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA).

H.R. 3593/S. 1983 would:

- Authorize up to \$200 million for USDA's Market Access Program
- Provide a minimum of \$35 million for the Foreign Market Development (Cooperator) Program
- Allow up to 50 percent of available funds under the Export Enhancement Program for market development and promotion activities.

Action Needed: NCFC members are urged to contact their House members and Senators and urge them to cosponsor H.R. 3593/S. 1983. Click on [http://www.ncfc.org/members/gpa/writecongress\\_frames.htm](http://www.ncfc.org/members/gpa/writecongress_frames.htm) to send a letter to Congress in support of these important measures.

# WSU receives \$50,000 from Farm Credit Services to build growth chamber

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*Pullman, Wash.* – Biocontrol research – a pest management strategy designed to keep agricultural pests in check with their natural enemies – has just received a boost from one of the region's largest providers of credit to agriculture.

Washington State University's entomology department has received a \$50,000 gift from Northwest Farm Credit Services of Spokane to help build a controlled environment room at the Pacific Northwest Biocontrol Insectary and Quarantine facility on the east edge of campus.

"At Northwest Farm Credit Services, we understand the importance of research to the future of agriculture. By supporting general agricultural research at this level, Farm Credit is readily demonstrating our commitment to agriculture," explained Jay Penick, president and chief executive officer of Northwest Farm Credit Services.

"We feel very fortunate to have received support from Farm Credit Services," said John Brown, chair of WSU's entomology department. "This gift brings us one step closer to construction."

Brown hopes to raise \$30,000 more from commodity groups.

Scientists will be able to manipulate temperatures and light in the room to study insect behavior and evaluate the potential of pest enemies imported from other parts of the nation and world.

"In the same species of parasitic wasps," Brown said, "you may select some that have a more active foraging behavior than other groups within that species."

Parasitic wasps brought in from North Africa and the Middle East help keep the Russian wheat aphid in check. This WSU and USDA biocontrol effort saves Washington wheat growers up to \$4 million a year in insecticide applications, Brown said.

The new controlled environment room will be designed so researchers will be able to roll in benches from the Insectary. Adult parasitoids will be vacuumed off the plants, packaged and shipped to growers.

The room will support the work of a new biocontrol specialist expected to join the entomology department on July 1. The position is one of 40 new faculty and technical positions funded by the state legislature in 1999 as part of the university's Safe Food Initiative.

# Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives

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## 1999-2000 Officers

The Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives is a trade association representing agricultural cooperatives. The council's primary goals are to represent its members before the legislature and agencies of government and to provide cooperative education for its members.

**Capital Notes** is produced by the Council to inform its members about issues of interest to cooperatives.

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