



Washington Wine Issues Research Grants

Posted By: Kevin Rounce on: March 30, 2016 In: Grapes and Wine No Comments

The Washington Wine Commission has issued \$870,000 for 13 grants to researchers investigating different aspects of the winemaking process.

Research Program Manager Melissa Hansen says the industry is growing so extensive study is critical.

"This research will help all sizes of wineries and growers, not just the big ones, not just the little ones, but all sizes to prepare for producing wine quality and getting the top notch premium grapes we need to compete on the marketplace."

Hansen pointed out one such study that will look at smoke taint and understanding the level where the exposure will damage quality enough to forego harvesting.

There were more than 20 projects submitted looking for a total of nearly \$1.4 million and Hansen said, "It's getting harder and harder for the committee to pick out those projects because they are such high quality. It would have been nice for the committee to have another \$400,000 to fund several more projects that were very deserving but they just didn't get the money."

The funding comes from the Wine Commission, an auction of Washington wines, WSU's Agriculture Research Center and the state tax on wines.

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