***Lesson: Introduction to Fruits***

**Purpose:** As the old saying goes “an apple a day keeps the doctor away”. But as you are about to find out, apples and their production processes can be quite diverse. Do organic apples “keep doctors away” any differently that non-organic apples? What about other fruits? In addition to apples, many kinds of fruit are grown in the U.S. alone, each providing a unique piece to the market’s pie. Let’s take a deeper look at fruit production and what it includes.

**Directions:** Access the commodities and products tab on the AgMRC website (<http://www.agmrc.org>) and find the link to the Fruit profile page. Utilize information located here to answer the questions below:

1. According to the AgMRC website how is fruit defined?
2. How many categories are listed under fruit on the AgMRC website? Choose one of the categories and identify a local grower using the Market Maker link.
3. What process do organic apples have to go through that commodity apples do not?
4. What percentage of figs are sold as fresh fruits in the US?
5. When planning a u-pick strawberry farm, what are some special considerations regarding the location and planning of the farm that need to be accounted for?
6. What are the two main types of cherries produced in the US? What are the differences between them?
7. What are some characteristics of the pomegranate tree beyond the typical fruit and juice production that could be used to add value to a pomegranate orchard business?

**Reinforcement activity: Worldwide Agriculture**

Take some time to go back through the Market Maker link or other internet search options to identify commonly grown fruits in your area. What are they?

Now try and identify another area in the world that grows a similar array of fruit crops. What is it about this area that allows them to grow the same products? (Ex. Market demand, climate, etc.)