***Lesson 1: Exploring Fruits- Teacher’s Guide***

**Estimated Time for Completion- approximately 45 minutes**

**Student Learning Objectives:**

* As a result of this lesson the student will…
  + Explore the production of various fruits grown within the U.S.
  + Understand some of the potential issues associated with U-pick businesses
  + Recognize alternative values of fruit plants.

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

**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.

1. According to the AgMRC website how is fruit defined?

* First, select the Commodities and Products link.
* Second, select the Fruits link

1. 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.

* First, select the Commodities and Products link. • Second, select the Fruits link.
* Third, count the number of categories listed.
* Fourth, click on the Food Industry Market Maker link.
* Sixth, select your state.
* Seventh, fill in information under Farmers, Fisheries & Businesses.
* Eighth, select fruits and nuts from the pop-up window.
* Ninth, narrow search by using categories at the top of the map or by using the map alone.

1. What process do organic apples have to go through that commodity apples do not?

* First, select the Commodities and Products link.
* Second, select the Fruits link.
* Third, select the apples link.
* Fourth, utilize the links under the apple to compare the commodity and organic apple production methods.

1. What percentage of figs are sold as fresh fruits in the US?

* First, select the Commodities and Products link.
* Second, select the Fruits link.
* Third, select the Figs link.

1. 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?

* First, select the Commodities and Products link.
* Second, select the Fruits link.
* Third, select the strawberries link.
* Fourth, select the U-Pick link

1. What are the two main types of cherries produced in the US? What are the differences between them?

* First, select the Commodities and Products link.
* Second, select the Fruits link.
* Third, select the cherries link.

1. 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?

* First, select the Commodities and Products link.
* Second, select the Fruits link.
* Third, select the pomegranate link. Utilize the links in the pomegranate page to find alternative uses for pomegranate parts.

**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.)