



**INTERNATIONAL PLANT MANAGEMENT**  
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**Application – 2015 ESS Award for Excellence in Multistate Research**  
**Nominating Region:** North Central Region Association  
**Nominator:** Ronald Perry (perryr@anr.msu.edu)  
**Project Number and Title:** *NC-140 Improving economic and environmental sustainability in tree fruit production through changes in rootstock use*  
**Technical Committee Chair:**  
**Administrative Advisor:** Ronald Perry (perryr@anr.msu.edu)

January 28, 2015

To whom it may concern:

We would like to offer our support for the recognition of the NC-140 program for the 2015 ESS Award for Excellence in Multistate Research. I can think of no other government program that has had such a long lasting impact on the fruit industry. The recommendations made by this program have shaped our industry from the very beginning. The US fruit industry has undergone several very basic changes in the past several decades. With every change in rootstock and planting systems, our industry has become much more productive, efficient and competitive. Without the research and recommendations generated by NC-140, we would not be able to compete in the world market. The US fruit industry is currently quite healthy. Our growers are making money and our fruit is sold all over the world. None of this would have been possible without the foundational changes that have come about from NC 140 research.

NC 140 and the researchers who participate deserve all the recognition we can give them. International Plant Management wholly supports this nomination.

Sincerely,

Wanda Heuser Gale

International Plant Management, Inc.