

Did You Know?

Researchers at the **ARS Western Regional Research Center** in Albany, CA, developed a way to make 100-percent fruit bars. The bars are made from an ARS-patented technique that uses small, blemished or damaged fruit, which would have otherwise been discarded. The bars come in a variety of flavors, including apple and pear, and variations of each combined with either blueberries, cherries, strawberries, cranberries, or raspberries. These bars are cholesterol-free, and loaded with fiber and minerals. Full-sized bars (40 grams) are equivalent to two fresh fruit servings. Not only are they nutritious, but they are convenient and have a 2-year shelf life.

Gorge Delights, Inc., of North Bonneville, WA, manufactures and sells the full-sized bars under the trade name JustFruit™. In addition, the company makes private label bars for various customers. The company has exclusive licensing rights to use this technology to create bars from purées and concentrates. As a direct result of this technology, 40 new jobs have been created in North Bonneville, WA—an area with 30 percent unemployment—to produce the bars.

The newest version of this product is a snack-sized version that is perfect for healthy snacking. These new junior-sized bars (25 grams)—coming in at under an ounce—provide the equivalent of about one serving of fresh fruit. These slim, go-anywhere packs are perfect for kids or for adults who want a healthy, flavorful, small-sized snack. They can be taken along for a hike, bike ride, camping, or a trip to the gym. With a 2-year shelf life, the bars are handy for storing for emergency use in the car or at home. JustFruit™ bars are sold at many retail stores out West, like Walgreens, Whole Foods Market, Rosauers, New Seasons Markets, Haggen Food & Pharmacy, Top Foods, and other retailers. They are also available from many online stores and from Gorge Delights at www.GorgeDelights.com. All of the bars are gluten-free, kosher-certified, and do not contain fillers, preservatives, or other artificial ingredients. Another new extension of this product is Bear Fruit Bars™, which is made from organically-grown apples and berries using the USDA-ARS-patented technology. These bars

are manufactured by Gorge Delights for Mountain Organic Foods, and are available on the Web at www.morfoods.com. Gorge Delights uses about half a million pounds of fresh fruit each year—fruit that would have otherwise been thrown away. To date, they have produced about 5.5 million bars. The bars have been sold all over the globe, including Iran, Japan, Mexico, Canada, and Peru to name a few.



Please submit story ideas and national award items to Tara T. Weaver-Missick, tara.weavermissick@ars.usda.gov or call 301-504-1663.