

C – CRANBERRIES LESSON

- **Name three things you already know about cranberries in your notebooks at a 7th grade quality level.**
- **Discuss: What are cranberries used for? – Record 3-5 in notes**
 - Variety of examples from candies to shampoo flavoring to cookies and dried as cransins
- **Discuss: Where are cranberries produced?**
 - **Cranberries are one of North America’s NATIVE fruits (along with concord grapes and blueberries)**
 - **Bear fruit indefinitely. Some vines are well over 100 years old. It takes 3-5 years for a new marsh to produce a crop.**
 - Top States
 - Wisconsin, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Oregon and Washington.
 - **WI = #1. And is WI’s State Fruit.**
 - Top WI Counties
 - **Douglas, Iron, Villas**, Oneida, Lincoln, Price, Sawyer, Washburn, Brunett, Rusk, Lincoln, Eau Claire, Clark, Wood, Portage, Jackson, Monroe, Juneau, and Adams.
 - **ID on map on Smart Board as a class where counties are**
- **How do we know when they are ready to harvest? Summarize video in notes.**
 - Harvest begins mid-September and extends for a few weeks.
 - **Open WI Cranberry growers website and talk through harvest photos/harvesting production video.**
- **What are the desirable traits to determine cranberry freshness?**
 - **Bounced to determine freshness and quality**
- How are they harvested?
 - Early days = by hand and the whole community would come for the harvest. More than 100 years the cranberries were combined by hand and with wooden hand rakes. Now growers flood marshes and use mechanical equipment. Teeth either gently lift the berries or agitate the water with enough force to dislodge the berries.
- **FUN FACTS:**
 - Early settlers gave cranberries their name. The pink blossoms resembled the heads of cranes (crane-berry) later turned to cranberry.
 - Contain vitamin C and used to be eaten to prevent scurvy.
- **Brainstorm and discuss careers related to cranberries and record 3 in notes** (think outside of the box beyond farmers to careers such as food testers, mechanics, IT consultants (making the videos you watched), accountants, USDA inspectors, apiculturalist (pollinate the fields), etc.)