

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2014

[HTTP://OFP.SCC.WA.GOV/](http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/)

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## *Mother Earth News Fair - Puyallup - May 31/June 1*

The Mother Earth News Fair will again come to Washington state.

*Mother Earth News*, the largest and longest-running publication about self-sufficient lifestyles, will hold its fourth annual Mother Earth News Fair May 31-June 1 at the [Puyallup Fairgrounds](#). The Fair runs from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Visitors can attend more than 200 hands-on workshops that cover organic gardening, food preparation and preservation, renewable energy, homesteading, small-scale livestock and beekeeping, green building and remodeling, natural health, green transportation, and related topics. Local and national experts on sustainable and rural lifestyle experts will lead the sessions.

In addition, the Fair will host a poultry show, children's activities, vendor and livestock demonstrations, an alternative-fuel vehicle show, hundreds of exhibitors, and local and organic food options.

Tickets cost \$20 for one-day passes and \$25 for the weekend, if purchased in advance. Tickets at the gate will be \$25 and \$30, respectively. Children 17 and under get in free. A limited number of VIP tickets will be available for purchase as well. VIPs receive priority seating at workshops, catered meals and other perks.

The Washington State Conservation Commission and Office of Farmland Preservation will be in booth 325 in the event area. Stop in and say Hi!



Past SCC booth at Mother Earth News

## *2012 Census of Agriculture for WA released*

On May 2, USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results sharing a wide range of information about what agricultural products were raised in the Northwest and the United States in 2012, and where, how and by whom they were grown. The data, which is reported at the national, state and county level, will help farmers, ranchers, local officials, agribusinesses and others make decisions for the future.

Look inside this newsletter for highlights from the WA census.

To provide easier access to the data, NASS created a number of tools for people to find and use Census data, including:

- [Quick Stats 2.0](#) – an online database to retrieve customized tables. For those new to this tool, a new [tutorial video](#) provides easy-to-follow instructions.
- [API](#) – a tool for developers.
- [Agricultural Atlas Maps](#) - profiles of the nation's agriculture at the county-level in a series of multicolor pattern and dot maps
- [Desktop Data Query Tool](#)- a downloadable desktop tool to analyze data without Internet access once you have downloaded and installed this tool.

For more information about the Census of Agriculture including all the final 2012 Census of Agriculture results, and tools to access and share the data, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).



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Sign up by going to [OFP Newsletter](#) - Email frequency is once a month

Find us on the web at: <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov>

## *Farm numbers in WA decline, farm size grows*

With the recent release of the 2012 Census of Agriculture figures for Washington, the data shows a growth of market value on a declining land base since 2007. As the number of farms declined (-5.2%), the average size of farm grew 3.9% to 396 acres. According to the figures, WA lost an average of 400 farms a year over the 5 year period. Meanwhile, production expenses increased 45.4% from 2007 to \$7.8 billion with net income declining overall 1.9%.

Total farmland declined an average of .3% a year or around 45,000 acres a year. Total reported difference between 2007 and 2012 is 224,682 acres. Land in farms is now 14,748,107.

Positive trends include principal operators identified as a minority growing, with our Latino farmers leading the way. Hispanic farmers grew from 1,643 in 2007 to 1,874 in 2012. Farms reporting direct sales to consumers increased by 4% totaling over \$45 million dollars, a 3.6% increase from 2007.

Yakima and Grant counties held the top two spots for value of sales respectfully. Grant led the state in crop sales (Yakima number 2) with Yakima tops for livestock sales and Grant coming in at number two. To see more information on these and other key census figures, go to: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Washington/](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/)



Hop yard in Yakima County

## *WA Farm Internship Program Update*

The [Tilth Producers of Washington](#) recently sent out an update on implementation of the expanded farm internship pilot program. The internship pilot was expanded in 2014 through passage of [SSB 5123 - Establishing a Farm Internship Program](#).

The update came via the implementing agency, Washington State Labor and Industries (L&I) and detailed the timing and hiring of staff hire who will assist with program implementation. Once this new hire is on board, they will begin reviewing and updating internship program forms, letters, etc., with an anticipated completion date of June 15, 2014.

A stakeholder contact list is expected to be developed by June 1, 2014, and beginning the week of June 16, draft materials will be sent out for stakeholder review. L&I will be working with stakeholders and farm organizations to coordinate the outreach efforts. Please feel free to provide the Employment Standards Program with contact information for other parties who may be interested in participating in the outreach efforts.

The L&I contact for getting on the information list is Allison Drake at [drad235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:drad235@lni.wa.gov).

## *USDA announces \$150m investment to grow small business*

As part of the Obama Administration's new "Made in Rural America" export and investment initiative, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced the creation of a new investment fund that will help propel the growth of small businesses across rural America. The new Rural Business Investment Company (RBIC) will now allow USDA to facilitate private equity investments in agriculture-related businesses. Currently, USDA programs exist to help provide loans or loan guarantees to help rural businesses grow, but many small cutting-edge businesses also need equity support in addition to or instead of borrowed funds.

Advantage Capital Partners, which will manage the new fund, and their partners from eight Farm Credit institutions have pledged to invest nearly \$150 million into the new effort.

The fund is being formed under the USDA's Rural Business Investment Program (RBIP). USDA utilizes RBIP to license funds to invest in enterprises that will create growth and job opportunities in rural areas, with an emphasis on smaller enterprises. Working through the USDA program enables licensed funds to raise capital from Farm Credit System banks and associations.

Learn more by going to - <http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2014/04/0067.xml>

## *In Short*

### **Updated Organic Ag information from USDA**

Consumer demand for organically produced goods has shown double-digit growth for well over a decade, providing market incentives for farmers across a broad range of products, says USDA Economic Research Service (ERS). [ERS has posted a section on Organic Agriculture](#) that includes an updated Organic Market Overview, information on certification and trade, and organic provisions of the Farm Bill. [Read more.](#)

### **Guide on Procuring Local Food for Child Nutrition Programs.**

USDA Food and Nutrition Service's Farm to School Initiative has released [Procuring Local Foods for Child Nutrition Programs](#). The 120-page guide covers procurement basics, menu planning, where to find local products, and the variety of ways schools can purchase locally. Examples illustrate the many mechanisms available for districts to procure local food.

Check out the [guide here](#) (PDF).

### **Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee - Lands Report**

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) recently heard an update on the Scope and Objective of a state lands study commissioned by the Washington State Legislature.

To review the study scope and objectives, [check out the committee page](#) here and under the April 23rd meeting, select the available links on the Costs and Economic Impacts of Public Recreation and Habitat Lands.

## *Marketing for Profit: Tools for Success - Free Online Course*

The Marketing for Profit: Tools for Success webinar series is now available online as a full marketing course for farmers and farm educators. The course will cover all 5 Assessment tools, the webinar presentations and all resources and links associated with each webinar. The first three assessment tools Self Assessment, Market Assessment, and Customer Assessment are available now, with the final two Communications Assessment and Business Assessment coming by the Spring of 2014.

Those completing the full course of webinars will be fully prepared to complete a business and marketing plan and add profits to their farm business. To access the online course, register here: [Marketing For Profit Registration Form](#).

## *New Study: Restaurant managers connection to local food*

Researchers at Penn State report that restaurant chefs and food purchasing managers who have bought local foods in the past are more likely to continue adding them to menus and store shelves. In a study, managers and chefs indicated the importance of producer response time as a key factor in local purchasing. Clear labeling was another selling point. Food purchasers also indicated that they would not stock local food just because it is local, but that the food needed a unique selling point.

Read more! <http://news.psu.edu/story/310760/2014/04/07/research/experience-helps-restaurant-managers-stick-local-foods>

## *USDA funding for food service equipment*

USDA [recently announced](#) that they are awarding \$25 million in grants to help schools purchase needed kitchen equipment as they continue to provide school lunches and breakfasts that give children the nutrition they need to learn and grow.

Over 90 percent of schools report that they are successfully meeting the updated nutrition standards, serving meals with more whole grains, fruits, vegetables, lean protein and low-fat dairy, and less sodium and fat. These new grants provide additional support to schools to help them prepare meals that meet those standards.

In December, USDA awarded \$11 million in grants to 14 states. For the latest round of funding, USDA will ensure all State agencies receive a proportional share of the funding. States will competitively award the funds to school districts to purchase needed equipment, giving priority to high-need schools where 50 percent or more of the enrolled students are eligible for free or reduced price meals. [Download the list of funding by state for FY13 and FY14.](#)

The contact for Washington State funds is the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction - [details here](#).(input WA state)

## Job Opportunities

### WSDA Seed Inspection Supervisor

The position for an Program Specialist 4 – Seed Inspection Supervisor has been posted to [www.careers.wa.gov](http://www.careers.wa.gov). This is a full-time permanent position within Commodity Inspection – Seed Program.

This position is located in Yakima, WA. Please share with anyone who may be interested. Link to the announcement is below.

[Program Specialist 4 - Seed Inspection Supervisor - Yakima](#)

### Willie Green's Organic Farm - Processing plant Manager

[Willie Green's Organic Farm](#) has an immediate opening for a Processing Plant Manager at our Monroe, WA location. The Processing Plant Manager plans, organizes and directs the daily operations of Willie Green's Organic Farms processing facilities.

Check out the full description by download the [PDF here](#).

[Processing Plant Manager \(PDF\)](#)

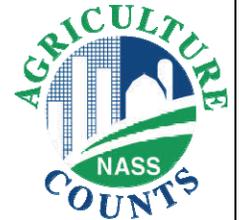
### Filaree Farm, Okanogan WA

Filaree Garlic Farm is a seed garlic business and farm located outside of sunny Okanogan. They are looking for highly motivated persons who have strong interests in pursuing a career in farming and/or small business management. In addition to those interested in working seasonally, they would welcome hearing from those interested in multi-year and full-time year-round work. Send a resume to [info@filareefarm.com](mailto:info@filareefarm.com) or contact their office to set up a phone interview. 509.422.6940. Possible housing options available on farm.

## WA Crop Progress and Condition - Week ending April 27

WA National Agricultural Statistics Service recently provided an crop progress and condition report.

Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.9. Range and Pasture Conditions were 0% very poor, 5% poor, 47% fair, 43% good, and 5% excellent. Yakima County experienced two or three rain episodes that contributed 0.05 to 0.16 inches of precipitation. Night time low temperatures ranged from the mid 30s to mid 40s. Asparagus harvest was picking up and fresh spears were available locally throughout the county. Nearly all of the fruit trees in the warmer areas of the county were in late petal fall or post petal fall. In the cooler areas, cherries were in petal fall while apples were at full bloom. Field crews thinned apples and peaches during the week. Most of the corn fields had been worked up with preemergent herbicide going out. Field workers were busy planting and transplanting vegetable crops (tomatoes, peppers, and cucumbers) through black plastic. Crews were cleaning out weeds from irrigation ditches and testing orchard irrigation systems. In Whitman County, temperatures were cooler than normal with highs in the 50's and lows in the 30's. Around 0.75 inch of precipitation was received throughout the week in parts of the county. The cool weather stagnated winter wheat growth, but a warmer forecast should help things pick up. Spring planting continued and spring wheat seeding was nearing completion.



## Land Use Policies to Protect and Promote Farmers Markets



**ChangeLab  
Solutions**

[ChangeLab Solutions](#) has put together a toolkit with model zoning language for farmers' markets. In addition to the model language, which was compiled after a review of national best practices and drafted by planners and attorneys, they cite many communities ordinances and permits that have done a great job in streamlining market permitting processes, including San Jose, Minneapolis, Portland, and more:

<http://changelabsolutions.org/publications/land-use-farmers-markets>

This guide provides an overview of farmers' market policy issues and community tested best practices. It also features a set of complementary model land use policies for comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances. ChangeLab Solutions wrote this guide for local government staff (planners, public health departments, etc.), elected officials, farmers' market managers, food policy councils, and other stakeholders, to provide practical guidance and tools that communities can customize to create more farmers' market opportunities and to ensure their long-term viability.

## *Two new videos highlight conservation on ag lands*

Eastern Washington landowners are being highlighted for their work to conserve natural resources while maintaining viable agriculture production. Two videos submitted by Washington state conservation districts will screen on May 7 at an upcoming film festival in Portland, Ore. hosted by River Restoration Northwest

You don't have to attend the film fest to see the videos! Both are available at links below.

Asotin County Conservation District produced a video with examples of land use practices that balance the goals of agriculture with natural resource conservation. In candid interviews, local farmers and livestock owners describe how the conservation district helped them implement practices that improve water quality, protect steelhead, and conserve resources for future generations.

**Check it out here:** <http://vimeo.com/92163853>

In the submitted video from Spokane Conservation and Palouse-Rock Lake Conservation Districts, large-tract farmers discuss the value of sustainable practices that protect topsoil. Farmers affirm that the health of their soil improves when transitioning from conventional tillage practices to direct-seed and no-till equipment, which significantly reduces erosion and nutrient runoff.

**Check it out here:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7fz7PAe2u0>

## *UPDATE: USDA Ag Easement Program and Voluntary Access*

USDA recently announced two new conservation programs that provide producers with even stronger tools to protect land and water resources across rural America.

The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) and the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program (VPA-HIP) were both established under the 2014 Farm Bill. ACEP, which streamlines several existing USDA easement programs, makes available \$366 million per year to a variety of public and private partners for conservation easements. The easements provided through ACEP help ensure the long-term viability of our food supply by preventing conversion of productive lands to non-agricultural use, while simultaneously protecting critical wetland resources.

VPA-HIP provides up to \$20 million per year in competitive grants to support owners and managers of private lands who want to make their land available to the public for hunting, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities. Expanded access to private lands provides an additional revenue source for farmers and ranchers and promotes good stewardship of the land.

Conservation work protects more than just cropland and critical habitats, they can also boost the bottom line for rural communities. A 2013 study commissioned the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation estimates that every \$1 spent on conservation programs in the U.S. yields \$2.40 in economic activity by supporting outdoor recreation activities and related businesses. To read the full conservation report, [click here](#). To read the Outdoor Industry Association's recreation report, [click here](#).



## *WA congress members sign on to letter to EPA on Clean Water Rule*

Members of Congress recently responded to the March 25, 2014 draft rule released by EPA and Army Corp of Engineers.

**A PDF copy of the letter can be reviewed [here](#).** Washington House members signing on in support are Rep(s) Herrera Beutler, Hastings, McMorris Rodgers, and Reichert respectfully. Learn more about the rule [here](#).

In the letter, members express their concern with re-defining the scope of federal power under the Clean Water Act and request EPA and the Corp to return the rule to their respective agencies "in order to address the legal, economic, and scientific deficiencies in the proposal."

A major concern is the impact the expansion of the definition of areas defined as "waters of the U.S.". There is concern that the Clean Water Act would apply to nearly all areas with any hydrologic connection to downstream navigable waters including man made conveyances such as ditches.

## *New USDA ERS report - Small acreage farming*



### *Working the Land With 10 Acres: Small Acreage Farming in the United States*

Roughly 13 percent of U.S. farms (294,000) operated on 10 acres or less in 2007, and while most of these small acreage (SA) farms generated very little, if any, farm production, some managed to attain sizeable sales despite their limited land base. Given strong and growing empirical evidence that larger farms are more efficient at producing most farm products, what factors account for the apparent continuing financial viability of some small acreage farms? This report looks at small acreage farms having gross sales of \$10,000 or more in a given year to better understand the product choices and strategies used by small acreage farms that appear to be operating profitably.

Over 30,000 small acreage farms had sales between \$10,000 and \$50,000 in 2007, while 6,000 SA farms grossed over \$250,000 and 3,600 had sales of at least \$500,000. These farms tended to specialize in a single stage of the production process when raising livestock, or they produced highvalue crops. They produced very little or no field crops, which require large acreages.

Check out the report by going to: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/publications/eib-economic-information-bulletin/eib123.aspx#.U2QSAldWh7M>

## *Mazama Pocket Gopher - Thurston County*

On April 9th, 2014, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) listed four subspecies of the Mazama pocket gopher as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Three of these subspecies are known to exist in Thurston County. The listing will take effect May 9th, 30 days after it is published in the Federal Register. [Click here](#) to read the final rule. [Click here](#) to read the critical habitat designation from USFWS. Once a listing goes into effect, the species are protected by federal law wherever they occur.

Currently, the subspecies to be listed are already protected under Thurston County's Critical Areas Ordinance. In response to the potential federal listing of several species in Thurston County, the County has been working closely with USFWS and other regional partners to develop a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) that will protect not only listed species, but the entire prairie ecosystem and the prosperity of the Thurston County region.

Because the listings will be finalized before the HCP is complete, the county is also preparing an interim permitting strategy that will allow limited development to continue while the comprehensive HCP is developed. The resulting Habitat Conservation Plan will work to protect critical habitat, to keep land use decisions local and promote responsible development.

Read more about the Habitat Conservation Plan [here](#).



## *Final Rule Adoption for SEPA*

The Department of Ecology recently announced they have adopted changes to the Environmental Protection Act rules (SEPA). The new rules were successfully adopted after over 3 years of work to amend SEPA and the SEPA checklist to better protect agriculture. The Checklist is now able to better evaluate impacts to farmland and there is a legislative directive found in [RCW 43.21c.011\(2\)](#), directing state agencies, local governments and individuals to avoid, minimize and/or mitigate impacts to farmland.

For information on the final rule adopted on April 9, 2014, go to: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/sea/sepa/rulemaking.html>

## *Wheat Life - Wading through water quality in WA*

In the [March 2014 edition of Wheat Life](#), WA Dairy Federation executive director Jay Gordon, discusses how the dairy industry is working to keep the state's waters clean.

Jay Gordon has been knee deep in Washington's water quality issues since he became executive director of the Washington State Dairy Federation (WSDF) more than 13 years ago. With many people pointing to the state's dairy industry as a major contributor to water pollution and nutrient runoff, Wheat Life wanted to find out how he and his industry are dealing with the issue and what lessons other ag industries in the state can take from them.

**While the 1974 Boldt decision wasn't directly related to water quality, it seemed to kick start the issue in Washington state when some of the language in the decision tied it to water pollution and salmon habitat. Are there other decisions or events related to water quality that stand out in your mind?**

Jump over to Wheat Life to see Jay's response to this and several other questions.

[http://www.wheatlife.org/p\\_0314\\_Gordon.html](http://www.wheatlife.org/p_0314_Gordon.html)

## *NWFCS Land Value Report - 1st Quarter 2014*

The Northwest FCS Land Value Survey is an overview of agricultural real estate values and trends throughout Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Written by Northwest FCS appraisers, it is released quarterly.

Agricultural real estate markets remained mostly stable for the majority of the Northwest during the first quarter of 2014. While sales transactions are limited, most areas report stable demand for good quality agricultural properties.

Demand and market activity are generally dependent upon property type and/or market segment. Listings of agricultural properties remain low with many transactions occurring between landlord and tenants. Agricultural properties continue to see increased interest from investors in many areas. Land values showed a ten percent increase between 2012 and 2013 in the Northwest.

Land value appreciation is primarily attributed to the short supply of quality cropland properties for sale throughout the region. Unlike the low level of sales experienced in 2009, fewer sales transactions in 2013 are a reflection of supply constraints, not weak demand.

**In Washington**, average dollar per acre land values showed a large increase in 2010, but the trend flattened out between 2011 and 2013. Current reports suggest steady demand and stable land values in most areas of the state. Although the overall trend for all land types has been stable, specific areas like the Columbia Basin continue to show increasing values for quality, irrigated cropland and permanent plantings.

Read the full report by going to: <https://www.northwestfcs.com/en/Resources/Land-Values>

## *Congressional Research Service Report: Bee Health*

The Congressional Research Service [recently updated a paper on bee health](#) and issues for Congress to consider.

Over the past few decades there has been heightened concern about the plight of honey bees as well as other bee and pollinator species. Although honey bee colony losses due to bee pests, parasites, and disease are not uncommon, there is the perception that bee health has been declining at a faster rate both in the United States and globally in recent years.

This situation gained increased attention in late 2006 as some commercial beekeepers began reporting sharp declines in their honey bee colonies. Because of the severity and unusual circumstances of these colony declines, scientists named this phenomenon colony collapse disorder (CCD). Since then, honey bee colonies have continued to dwindle each year, for reasons not solely attributable to CCD.

Read the full report by going to: [Bee Health: Background and Issues for Congress](#)



# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Western SARE grant availability

Western SARE has posted their most recent Calls for Proposals:

- Farmer/Rancher
- Professional + Producer
- R&E Pre-proposal
- Graduate Student
- Professional Development

To review descriptions of each type and find links to the specific call, please visit

<http://www.westernsare.org/Grants/Types-of-Grants>

## USDA Rural Business Investment

USDA recently announced they are accepting applications for new Rural Business Investment Companies (RBIC). Applicants have until July 29th to submit applications for review in FY2014. Any application accepted after this deadline will be held for consideration next year. USDA intends to accept applications through 2016, detailed information including application materials and instructions can be found at:

[www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP\\_RBIP.html](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/BCP_RBIP.html).

The RBI program promotes economic development in mostly rural areas by helping to meet the equity capital investment needs of smaller enterprises in such areas.

## Beginning Farmer and Rancher Funding - USDA

The BFRD Program is an education, training, technical assistance, and outreach program designed to help farmers, ranchers, and managers of non-industrial private forest land—specifically those aiming to start farming and those who have been farming or ranching for 10 or fewer years. The National Institutes of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will competitively award more than \$19 million in grants to organizations conducting programs to help beginning farmers and ranchers.

**Applications are due June 12, 2014.**

[Click here for details.](#)

## Mark Your Calendars

### May 29 - Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network Webinar

This webinar covers the basics of Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). If you're a farmer or rancher who brings animals to an inspected processor, if you're thinking you might want to get into the processing business, or if you just want to know what HACCP actually is, this webinar is for you. [Details here.](#)

### WSU Beef 300, May 20-22 Pullman

WSU/UI Beef is a three-day intensive hands-on program designed for progressive individuals interested in expanding their knowledge of the total beef industry. Registration is limited to 32 participants on first-paid, first registered basis.

[Check the flyer \(PDF\) for full details.](#)

### Producers Roundtable on GAP and On-Farm Food Safety May 7 - Spokane

WSDA GAP auditors will present an overview of the USDA GAP certification program, and answer questions to guide you in identifying low-cost strategies for implementing Good Agricultural Practices on your farm, whether or not you plan to be audited.

**Details and registration [here.](#)**

### Late Spring/Summer Orcharding Workshop - Mt. Vernon, May 17

Cutting edge information in a dynamic 1-day workshop on the topics of Pest Control; Integrated Pest Management; Propagation; Weed Control; Summer Pruning & Training; and, Practical matters for the Orchard: Sprayers/Calibration/Working with the Nursery

Details [here](#)

### WSU 2014 Beef Production Conference - Yakima - June 13-14

WSU Extension and the WSU Animal Science Department recently announced a world-class conference serving the Beef Production Industry in Washington and the Pacific Northwest! This conference has something for beef producers of all types and sizes. Please visit the [website for complete conference information.](#)

### WSU Ext. - Drip Irrigation Systems

The workshop will be offered Tuesday, May 20, and Wednesday, June 18, at 1 p.m. and again at 6 p.m. each of those dates, at the Extension Education Center in South Everett in McCollum Park, 600 – 128th St. SE. The cost is only \$20, or \$30 for a couple, and includes an extensive reference handout. To register call 425-357-6039 or visit online:

<http://tinyurl.com/mup5le7>.

“OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE THE VITALITY OF FARMING, FARMERS, AND RANCHERS BY ENSURING THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN WASHINGTON STATE. WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE, THE OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND OTHERS AND BY ENLISTING PUBLIC SUPPORT. PROGRAMS WILL BE VOLUNTARY, RECOGNIZE LOCAL PRIORITIES, AND PROVIDE FOR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES.”