

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

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

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Value of WA 2013 Agricultural Production Surpasses Ten Billion Dollars

The value of Washington's 2013 agricultural production reached \$10.2 billion, setting a new record high for the third consecutive year. This is 2 percent above the 2012 revised figure of \$9.97 billion.

Despite a 12 percent decrease in value from the previous year, **apples** remain the leading agricultural commodity in the State with a 2013 value of \$2.19 billion. Apples represented 22 percent of the total agricultural value compared with 25 percent in 2012. **Milk**, moving up one position in the ranking from the previous year, had value of production totaling \$1.30 billion dollars in 2013. This was up 12 percent from 2012. **Wheat** ranked third with a value of \$1.01 billion, 13 percent lower than the previous year. Rounding out the top five were **potatoes** ranked fourth and **cattle and calves** coming in fifth. **Potato** value of production, at \$792 million, was up 13 percent from 2012 while cattle and calves, at \$706 million increased 7 percent from the previous year. These five commodities had a combined value of \$6.00 billion, or 59 percent of the 2013 value for all commodities (excluding government payments). The same five commodities in 2012 had a combined value of \$6.16 billion, or 62 percent of the total value.



For the full press release, go to: [http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics by State/Washington/Publications/Current News Release/2015/VOP 2014.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Current_News_Release/2015/VOP_2014.pdf)

2015 legislative session underway - series of land use bills introduced

January 12th marked the start of the state's 105th legislative session. Already as of January 29, 1,528 pieces of legislation have been introduced. Hearings are underway with bills being heard for the first time and beginning the journey to being signed by Governor Inslee.

Legislation introduced so far includes bills to prohibit conversion of agricultural lands to wetlands or fish habitat under the growth management act and the shoreline management act. Several are companion bills (both a house bill and senate bill identical in nature when introduced). For more on these bills, click on the bill numbers to go to the bill page. Bill analysis is available on the lower right of the bill page. Some of these bills have received public hearings and are scheduled for executive session. This is noted below with: **NH** - No Hearing has been scheduled; **PH** - Public Hearing; and **EX** - means the bill has received a public hearing and is scheduled for executive session. This means it may be voted out of committee possibly with changes.



[HB 1214](#) - Addressing the definition of agricultural lands under the shoreline management act (SMA) - **[NH]**

[HB 1215](#) - Restricting the conversion of agricultural land to other uses under the growth management act (GMA). **[EX]**

[HB 1216](#) - Restricting the conversion of agricultural land to other uses under the GMA and SMA - **[NH]**

[HB 1629](#) - Prohibiting conversion of agricultural lands to wetlands or fish habitat under the SMA - **[EX]**

[HB 1630](#) - Prohibiting conversion of agricultural lands to wetlands or fish habitat under the GMA and SMA - **[EX]**

[SB 5013](#) - Regarding the use of designated agricultural lands - **[PH]**

[SB 5168](#) - Addressing the definition of agricultural lands under the SMA - **[PH]**

[SB 5169](#) - Restricting the conversion of agricultural land to other uses under the GMA - **[PH]**

[SB 5170](#) - Restricting the conversion of agricultural land to other uses under the GMA and SMA - **[PH]**

Stay in contact and sign up for the OFP-Newsletter!

Email frequency is once a month

Sign up on the web at: <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov>

3rd annual Small Farms Conference - Yakima - February 6, 2015

The [Center for Latino Farmers](#) (Center) will be hosting a Small Farms Conference entitled “Changing Dynamic of Agriculture” on February 6, 2015 in Yakima at the Convention Center - 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The conference is targeting Hispanic/Latino new or established farmers and ranchers as well as other small farm operators who want to learn about changes in the Ag industry and programs, services and grants available to producers. Based on responses to date, attendance will surpass year’s conference.



Newly elected Congressman Dan Newhouse has been invited to be the keynote speaker during the luncheon. Attendance to luncheon will be open to the public for \$25, but requires pre registration to assure that we can accommodate all who are interested in attending.

Juan Marinez representing Alliance of Hispanics in Agriculture will discuss the history and the dynamic growth of Hispanics in agriculture as has been clearly documented seen in the NASS Ag Census throughout the last 10 years. The all day networking event is to bring together producers, professionals and businesses in agriculture from throughout the region and State of WA and hear from experts and other farmers about the issues facing small producers. Presenters from federal and state agencies will be speaking on topics such as food safety, gap certification, programs and grants available from agencies, marketing, coop development, crop insurance, labor issues, H2A program, farm succession, and the Affordable Care Act.

To register or receive more information, call Maria DJ Rodriguez or Maria Giedra at 509-453-3157.

Haggen to use Charlie’s as key supplier

The Produce News - by Tim Linden / January 12, 2015

In December, 18-store Pacific Northwest grocery chain Haggen entered into an agreement to acquire 146 Albertson’s and Safeway stores as part of the divestment process brought on by the merger of those two chains.

Haggen subsequently announced it would expand its relationship with its current produce supplier, Charlie’s Produce in Seattle, to be the primary supplier of all 164 stores, which are located in Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona and Nevada.

Charlie’s Produce is a full-service produce company, supplying restaurants, grocery stores, institutions, wholesalers and the marine industry with a full range of conventional, organic and specialty produce, floral items and a wide assortment of fresh-cut produce. The Seattle-based company has distribution centers in Seattle and Spokane, WA; Portland, OR; Anchorage and Dutch Harbor, AK. **Read more:** <http://goo.gl/YF2IPZ>

USDA Partnering to Conduct Grant Workshops to Support Local Foods

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) and National Institute for Food and Agriculture (NIFA) recently announced a partnership through the Agricultural Marketing Service Technical Assistance (AMSTA) Project to conduct workshops that will help potential grant applicants understand, develop, and submit their Federal grant applications for the [Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Program](#).



There will be two workshops in Washington. The times have not yet been established. Check [here](#) for more details or contact Colleen Donovan - (509) 663-8181 ext 263 leen.donovan@wsu.edu

April 16, 2015 - WSU Extension, 901 E 7th Avenue, Suite 2, Ellensburg

April 21, 2015 - WSU Puyallup Research & Extension Center, 2606 W Pioneer, Puyallup

Some of the workshop sessions will be recorded and available for online viewing for those not able to attend in person.

Department of Ecology holding nonpoint pollution public meeting

The Washington Department of Ecology is holding an in-person and online public meeting from 2 – 4 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 9, about updates needed to the state's Nonpoint Pollution Source Management Program (NPS) Plan. Nonpoint pollution is an area of interest for our state's agricultural producers.

At this meeting Ecology will provide information about the NPS Plan, describe areas of emphasis for the update, describe the timeline for the updates, talk about further opportunities for public engagement, and take questions.

Ecology is required to update the state's Nonpoint Plan so it can maintain eligibility for Section 319 (federal NPS Program) funding. The plan also must meet EPA Clean Water Act requirements.

Washington's NPS Plan provides the foundation for the state to address nonpoint pollution. The Nonpoint Plan outlines Washington State's approach to addressing water quality impacts from nonpoint sources of pollution in accordance with state and federal law.

The meeting will take place at Ecology's headquarters building in Lacey. If attending in person, please consider alternative forms of transportation or carpooling. Additionally, participants will be able to join online remotely via webinar. Directions here: <http://goo.gl/6Ndbma>

A webinar is an online meeting that you can attend from any computer using internet access and a phone. Register for the webinar at: https://www.conferenceplus.com/confcenter/PinCode/Pin_Code.aspx?100862&o=UGwhzMDaZqpdml

Please contact Ben Rau at 360-407-6551 or ben.rau@ecy.wa.gov with any questions.



USDA Creates More Bird Habitat Opportunities on Irrigated Farmland

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) recently announced that the Conservation Reserve Program now will encourage more bird habitats to be established in irrigated farmland regions.

Declines in upland bird populations, such as the northern bobwhite, pheasant, and prairie chicken, led to the creation of new Conservation Reserve Program features to help restore habitats for these species in these agricultural areas. Since the program's creation in 2004, more than 240,000 acres of marginal cropland has been converted to native grasslands, spurring an increase in upland bird populations.



In recent years, however, applications for this type of habitat creation have slowed. To encourage more participation, USDA's new policy focuses on farmland with center-pivot irrigation systems where there are circular areas of cropland with patches of land beyond the reach of irrigation. Until now, these patches – known as pivot corners – were only eligible for habitat creation when connected by a linear strip of grassland also enrolled in the program. The new policy allows producers interested in habitat creation to use disconnected pivot corners to help increase the population of upland birds.

Interested landowners can enroll pivot corners in the Conservation Reserve Program at any time. Participants and land must meet certain eligibility requirements. Other restrictions may apply. For additional details, contact your local Farm Service Agency office at offices.usda.gov or visit the website at www.fsa.usda.gov/conservation.

WSDA 2015 Specialty Crop Block Grant Program

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is pleased to announce a competitive solicitation process to award USDA Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) funds for projects that enhance the competitiveness of Washington's specialty crops. WSDA anticipates that approximately \$4 million will be available to award grants to selected recipients in 2015.

See the grant program flyer here: <http://goo.gl/179qwK> Application available here: <http://agr.wa.gov/grants/scbgbp>

Concept proposals due February 26, 2015

In Short

GRANT: EPA Environmental Education Local Grants Program

EPA seeks grant proposals from eligible applicants to support environmental education projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship and help provide people with the skills to take responsible actions to protect the environment. EPA expects to award three grants of up to \$91,000 each from each of its 10 Regional Offices.

Proposals must be postmarked by March 6, 2015.

Details here: <http://goo.gl/isiENG>

Farm Succession Planning - English & Spanish workbook now available

Planning the Future of Your Farm is a workbook for families who want to keep their farmland in production and/or "in the family" as it passes to the next generation.

Hardcopies are available. If you would like a hardcopy mailed to you, please contact us at ofp@scc.wa.gov with mailing information or 360-407-6200.

If you would like more than one, please let us know and we can make accommodations.

National Agricultural Library Unveils New Search Engine for Published USDA Research

The National Agricultural Library has unveiled PubAg, a free, user-friendly search engine that gives the public enhanced access to research published by USDA scientists. PubAg.nal.usda.gov is a new portal for literature searches and full-text access of more than 40,000 scientific journal articles by USDA researchers, mostly from 1997 to 2014.

Check it out here: <http://goo.gl/ZkCmXL>

Webinar: Food Policy and Regional Food Systems

Food Policy and Regional Food Systems: Opportunities for Networking across Jurisdictions

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 - 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM PST

Registration details: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3927084263151283457>

This event is sponsored by the Institute for Public Health Innovation and the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future. During this webinar, expert panelists will address a number of big picture questions local food policy councils have about regional food systems, including:

- The role of local food policy councils within a regional network
- When is it beneficial to connect across a region
- How to determine your "region" and what to do when definitions vary
- Best practices and challenges to organizing and building regional networks, including resources and infrastructure needed

These issues will be addressed to show participants how networking across jurisdictions can positively influence food system change. The webinar will also include time for participant Q&A.

2015 Regional Farmland Reports - Farmers National Co.

From Farmers National Company 2015 Regional Report - available here: <http://goo.gl/oK5C7A>

As 2014 came to a close, land values had stabilized from the double digit increases of the past few years, according to Farmers National Company, the nation's leading farm and ranch real estate company. Location and quality of land continue to be main drivers of prices for a given tract of land. The lower supply of land for sale and the continued demand for agricultural land is maintaining general stability of the land market.

According to Farmers National Company, the supply of land for sale is less than in the past few years as there is no tax policy change driving sales and landowners remain tight holders of the asset.

In Washington, activity is brisk and very competitive for high quality agricultural land in the Pacific Northwest, driven mostly by minimal supply and high demand, according to Flo Sayre, Real Estate Broker for Farmers National Company in Pasco.

Investors are clearly one of the strongest demand sources. Rents are very strong in the Columbia Basin, fueled by the number of younger farmers competing for acres. Sellers at this time seem to be asking more than the market can support. Those parcels that are priced correctly have buyers clamoring to get the bid for the property.

Read more [here](http://goo.gl/oK5C7A) - full Washington report at the bottom of the page - <http://goo.gl/oK5C7A>

In Short

Judge: Dairy pollution threatens Washington valley's water

January 15 - A federal judge has ruled that a large industrial dairy in eastern Washington has polluted drinking water through its application, storage and management of manure, in a case that could set precedents across the nation.

U.S. District Judge Thomas O. Rice of Spokane ruled Wednesday that the pollution posed an "imminent and substantial endangerment" to the environment and to people who drink the water.

Read more here: <http://goo.gl/e4lkJa>

Milk Production Continues Shifting to Large-Scale Farms

Production has shifted to larger farms in most agricultural commodity sectors over the last two decades. This consolidation has contributed to productivity growth in agriculture, leading to lower commodity and food prices and reducing total resource use in food and fiber production. As consolidation reduces the farm population, it also makes starting small and mid-sized farming operations more difficult.

Read more here: <http://goo.gl/jQL0Rv>

Helping Washington State Bees and Beekeepers – Thursday, March 5

To help raise awareness of the issues facing bees and beekeepers in Washington State, WSBA is organizing a Legislative Honeybee Awareness Day, , March 5 on the North steps outside the Capitol legislative building, starting at 9:00 AM.

The work of the legislatively-mandated statewide Honey Bee Work Group is now complete. The group met for more than a year, gathering data and presenting a comprehensive report on issues facing bees... [Read more](#)

A Framework for Assessing Effects of the Food System

The U.S. food supply chain is deeply interconnected with human and environmental health, as well as social and economic systems. To arrive at a decision whose benefits outweigh its risks, decision makers must carefully consider a broad range of effects and interactions across the health, environmental, social, and economic domains.

To aid in this complex analytical process, the Institute of Medicine and the National Research Council convened an expert committee to develop a framework to assist in food and agriculture decision making. The committee's report, **A Framework for Assessing Effects of the Food System**, sponsored by The JPB Foundation, presents guiding principles and practical steps to help stakeholders weigh tradeoffs and choose policies that integrate benefits and risks across various domains.

Download the report by going to: <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2015/Food-System.aspx>

A Framework for Assessing Effects of the Food System



JLARC public land acquisition report

In the 2013-15 Capital Budget (ESSB 5035), the Legislature directed the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct a study of public recreation and habitat lands that would describe the characteristics and costs of recent acquisitions, evaluate cost and benefit measures for these lands, and address potential effects of these lands on county economic vitality. The economic vitality report will be issued in the coming months.

Much of the Legislature's assignment focused on lands acquired by three state agencies: the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the State Parks and Recreation Commission (Parks), and the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). State law authorizes these agencies to acquire land for recreation or habitat.

From Fiscal Year 2004 through 2013, State Parks, DNR, and WDFW acquired 241,231 acres and disposed of 120,761 acres in parks, natural areas, wildlife areas, and water access sites. The net increase of these recreation and habitat lands was 120,470 acres. WDFW was tops among the agencies in net change of acreage during this report period (82,472 acres).

The Legislative Auditor recommended that the five agencies develop a single, easily-accessible source for information about proposed recreation and habitat land acquisitions, including detailed outcomes and future costs. The agencies can build on work they already do to accomplish this.

To view the full report and recommendations, please go to: <http://leg.wa.gov/jlarc/reports/publicLandsInv/p/>

In Short

GRANT: USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for more than \$18 million in funding to help educate, mentor, and enhance the sustainability of the next generation of farmers. This support is available through the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program.

Details: <http://goo.gl/i9cMDK>

Applications are due March 13, 2015.

Michigan Food Hub Network Case Study Published

The Michigan State University Center for Regional Food Systems has released The Michigan Food Hub Network: A Case Study in Building Effective Networks for Food System Change.

The 24-page publication relates some of the key lessons the Michigan Food Hub Network has learned, detailing considerations for food hubs and partners in starting a food hub network.

Download the report by going to:

<http://goo.gl/Lpxzpj>

WSU 2015 Dairy Short Courses

In February, March and April, the WSU Creamery will offer Basic Cheese Making, Advanced Cheese Making and Pasteurization Short Courses.

Check out the following flyers for locations and dates.

<http://goo.gl/c7tkmE>

<http://goo.gl/Z9YDZi>

For further details and links to registration visit: <http://creamery.wsu.edu/about-us/upcoming-events/>

Free Avian Flu Prevention Workshop - Feb 5

FREE workshop for all poultry owners!

Limited space, free registration at AvianFlu.BrownPaperTickets.com. Monday, Feb. 5, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Longhouse at Evergreen State Fairgrounds, 14405 179th Avenue Southeast, Monroe, WA.

Avian Flu is a serious threat in our area; join us for this free workshop to learn what you can do to protect your poultry. This serious disease affects all domestic poultry including chickens, ducks, and turkeys. Learn the steps necessary to keep your flock safe along with early warning signs of the disease, which has already cropped up in three locations around the state of Washington! Special presentations by Dr. Amber Itle & Dr. Paul Kohrs; specialists with the Washington Dept. of Agriculture Animal Health Division will cover information on protecting your flock from wild birds, proper biosecurity protocols, signs and symptoms to look for, and tips for monitoring and reporting any unusual behavior.

WSDA website for more information on the disease and its prevention: <http://goo.gl/VQveYZ>



Washington State H-2A 2014 Annual Report

For a third straight year, use of the agricultural legal worker program (H-2A) exploded in Washington state increasing by a staggering 43 percent compared to the previous year.

In 2014, 9,025 foreign agricultural workers were certified to work in Washington, greater than 10 percent of the state's peak seasonal ag employment. Workers receive high wages, free housing, free transportation, and most importantly, the dignity of legal presence. A typical farm worker from Mexico earns more in one month in Washington state than in one year back home. Is it any wonder workers love this program?

A brief statement about the H-2A program in Washington is [here](#).

Farmers in Washington are investing millions to obtain a stable and legal workforce. Workers and farmers are cooperating. And it appears that Congress is poised to pass legislation that makes it easier for farm workers to come to the U.S. legally through programs like H-2A.

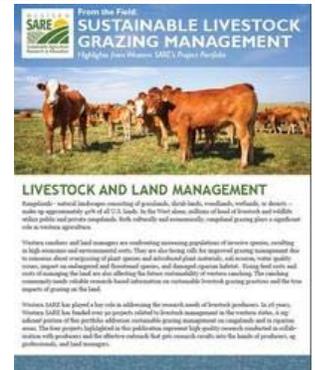
Check out the full report here: <http://goo.gl/2y7u0e>

New Publication: Sustainable Livestock Grazing Management

Western SARE releases latest "From the Field" publication, [Sustainable Livestock Grazing Management](#). This report highlights four successful Western SARE-funded projects addressing livestock grazing on rangelands and riparian areas.

Western SARE has played a key role in addressing the research needs of livestock producers. A significant portion of this publication addresses sustainable grazing management on rangelands and in riparian areas. The four projects highlighted in this publication represent high quality research conducted in collaboration with producers and the effective outreach that gets research results into the hands of producers, ag professionals, and land managers.

Download the PDF at <http://goo.gl/CQN8Bw>



Trends in U.S. Local and Regional Food Systems: A Report to Congress



This recently released report from USDA Economic Research Service provides an overview of local and regional food systems across several dimensions. It details the latest economic information on local food producers, consumers, and policy, relying on findings from several national surveys and a synthesis of recent literature to assess the current size of and recent trends in local and regional food systems.

What Did the Study Find?

Among the findings, Producer participation in local food systems is growing, and the value of local food sales, defined as the sale of food for human consumption through both direct-to-consumer (e.g., farmers' markets) and intermediated marketing channels (e.g., sales to institutions or regional distributors), appears to be increasing.

Farms with gross cash farm income below \$75,000 accounted for 85 percent of local food farms in 2012, according to census data. These farms are estimated to account for only 13 percent of local food sales. Local food farms with gross cash farm income above \$350,000 accounted for 5 percent of local food farms and 67 percent of sales.

Learn more and see review all the findings by going to: <http://goo.gl/iTwYyp>

Washington US House members get Ag committee assignments

Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-01) and Congressman Dan Newhouse (WA-04) were recently selected to serve on sub-committees of the House Agriculture Committee. Rep. DelBene was selected as the Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture and Research and Newhouse was appointed as a member.

"I look forward to leading this important subcommittee and hearing innovative ideas from farmers, ranchers and researchers," DelBene said. "People rarely link technology with farming, but it is vital to the future of our agriculture industry. I hope to support and build on this interconnectivity in my new role, using my experience both in the technology industry as well as on the Committee."



In addition, DelBene was appointed to the Nutrition sub committee whose jurisdiction is policies and statutes relating to nutrition, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and domestic commodity distribution and consumer initiatives.

DelBene was also appointed to the Conservation and Forestry subcommittee whose jurisdiction is policies and statutes relating to resource conservation, forestry, and all forests under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture.



WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mark Your Calendars

<p>Western Regional Grazing Conference - February 27/28</p> <p>Western Regional Grazing Conference: Grazing for Change - February 27 and 28, 2015 at the Chico State College of Agriculture.</p> <p>Grazing for Change is an essential event for farmers and ranchers seeking new tools and practices to cope with drought, rising costs of production, and pasture availability.</p> <p>Details: http://goo.gl/pmAAOF</p>	<p>February 27/28 San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit Lopez Island, WA</p> <p>Bringing together farmers, farm advocates, local and national experts, and keynote speakers for two days of information, inspiration and networking.</p> <p>Contact summit@sjcarc.org or go to http://sjcarc.org/ for more information</p>	<p>WA Farm Labor Association Workforce Summit - Feb 11, 2015</p> <p>The Workforce Summit is from noon - 5pm Wednesday, Feb. 11, at the Wenatchee Convention Center</p> <p>The Workforce Summit focuses on how seasonal employers can best utilize the Federal H-2A Guest Worker Program to attract a legal and stable workforce.</p> <p>Agenda - PDF - http://goo.gl/Tf4oXz</p> <p>Registration details here - http://goo.gl/Brwma5</p>
<p>NW Area FSA 2014 Farm Bill New Program Informational Meeting</p> <p>Wednesday, February 4, 4 PM-5:30 PM WSU Extension Research Center, 16650 State Route 536, Mount Vernon, WA 98273 - Driving directions</p> <p>This meeting will give you the opportunity to gain an understanding of the new programs that may affect you and your operation.</p>	<p>NW Farm to Table - Feb 9</p> <p>2015 NW WA Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting - Monday, February 9 2014, 8:30am-4pm</p> <p>Where: St. Luke's Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham</p> <p>Tickets and Registration: Brown Paper Tickets.</p> <p>Event flyer available here: http://goo.gl/n4frV8</p>	<p>Grafting Vegetables - Hands on Workshop, February 20, 2015</p> <p>February 20, 2015 - 9am 12pm WSU Mount Vernon NWREC</p> <p>Learn how to use the splice-graft technique to graft tomato and watermelon successfully.</p> <p>All grafting materials will be provided. Participant supply list will be emailed upon registration.</p> <p>Details here: http://goo.gl/N1qAB5</p>
<p>Pierce County Farm Forum - Feb 27</p> <p>Location: Pioneer Park Pavilion in Puyallup, WA</p> <p>Date: February 27, 2015</p> <p>Time: 8:30 am - 3 pm</p> <p>Cost: \$10 suggested donation</p> <p>An engaging and dynamic discussion as local farmers and agribusiness representatives share their strategies and experiences for forging new markets.</p> <p>Details and tickets here: http://goo.gl/R1w3gu</p>	<p>Save the Date: Feb 21 - Women in Agriculture Conference</p> <p>This year's conference will be held in multiple locations across Washington (19 cities!), Oregon and Alaska - on the same day! This multiple site conference format brings the best of national and local speakers to easily accessible locations.</p> <p>Visit the website for more information and to find a location near you: www.WomenInAg.wsu.edu</p>	<p>WA Farm Labor Association Annual Labor Conference - Feb 12, 2015</p> <p>The only all day conference dedicated to the labor and employment needs of seasonal employers!</p> <p>The Labor Conference is all day (8:30 am – 5:00 pm) Thursday, Feb. 12, at the Wenatchee Convention Center</p> <p>Details here: http://wafla.org/event-1798544</p>

“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.”