

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

JULY - AUGUST 2015

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

VOLUME 8, ISSUE 7

### *Federal legislation introduced to assist new farmers*

Congressman Chris Gibson (NY-19) announced in June the introduction of the Young Farmer Success Act of 2015, legislation he authored to grow the ranks of farmers and safeguard American agriculture.

The bipartisan bill, which was introduced with original co-sponsor Congressman Joe Courtney (CT-2), helps new and beginning farmers manage their student loan debt by adding them to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program.

“Much like teachers, doctors, nurses, and government employees who are already eligible for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program, farmers are public servants,” said Congressman Gibson. “Our farmers not only produce our food and fiber, they protect the landscape and generate substantial economic activity in every state. A self-reliant nation requires a vibrant agricultural sector, but student loan debt creates a significant barrier to getting started in farming. Our bill empowers young people to attend college and embrace this important vocation.”

Under the Young Farmer Success Act of 2015, a farmer would see the balance of his or her student loans forgiven after making 10 years of income-based student loan payments, freeing capital for farmers to acquire land and equipment.

The bill requires a qualified farm to earn a minimum of \$35,000 in revenue for a farmer to be eligible for loan forgiveness to prevent the program from being used by hobby farmers or others who do not perform a public service.

“The average age of the American farmer is 58,” said Congressman Gibson. “As the majority of farmers near retirement age, we need at least 100,000 new farmers to take their place. I deeply appreciate the guidance and advocacy of Lindsey and the National Young Farmers Coalition, and I look forward to continuing our partnership to bring more people into agriculture and protect a way of life that sustains our nation.”

The bipartisan [Young Farmer Success Act \(H.R. 2590\)](#) was introduced by Rep. Chris Gibson (R-NY) and Rep. Courtney (D-CT). Co-sponsors include Rep. Pingree (D-ME), Rep. Emmer (R-MN) and Rep. Lofgren (D-CA). The legislation has broad support from nearly 100 farming organizations, including National Farmers Union, FFA, and Farm Aid.



Rep Chris Gibson (R-NY)  
introduced H.R. 2590

### *Reports: Washington State public natural resource lands*

Members of the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) will hear two proposed final reports covering lands in Washington at their upcoming [July 29 regular JLARC meeting](#). Past legislation requested that JLARC undertake these studies to better understand the economic impacts of public natural resource lands and our state owned natural resource lands. Both reports include an auditors conclusion. The Recreation and Habitat Lands report includes recommendations.

**Proposed Final Report:** [State Recreation and Habitat Lands](#)

**Legislative Auditor’s Conclusion:** Legislature would benefit from additional information about detailed outcomes and future costs of recreation and habitat lands when considering funding requests

**Proposed Final Report:** [Economic Impacts of Public Natural Resource Lands](#)

**Legislative Auditor’s Conclusion:** County economies are influenced more by how public lands are used than by the amount of publicly owned lands

JLARC received an National Conference of State Legislatures award for Innovative Presentation based on the Preliminary Report: Economic Impact of Public Natural Resource Land publish in April 2015.

**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>

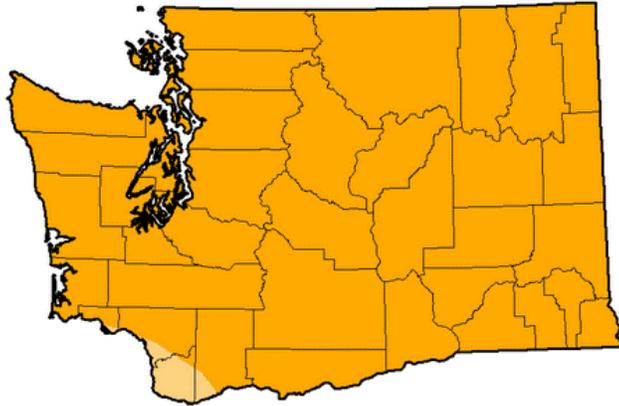
# U.S. Drought Monitor

## Washington

**July 14, 2015**  
 (Released Thursday July 16, 2015)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Statistics type: Traditional Percent Area

Export table:



Week	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current <a href="#">2015-07-14</a>	0.00	100.00	100.00	98.61	0.00	0.00
Last Week <a href="#">2015-07-07</a>	0.00	100.00	100.00	86.14	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago <a href="#">2015-04-14</a>	34.63	65.37	28.13	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Calendar Year <a href="#">2014-12-30</a>	51.87	48.13	36.15	14.83	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year <a href="#">2014-09-30</a>	34.22	65.78	40.27	20.17	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago <a href="#">2014-07-15</a>	50.82	49.18	33.38	18.27	0.00	0.00

Population Affected by Drought: **6,642,056**

[View More Statistics](#)

**Intensity:**

- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)

### State Drought Response: \$16 million to help relieve hardships

Drought relief money is now available across the state as hardships from water shortages really begin to mount for farms and fish. With a \$16 million appropriation from the Legislature, the Washington Department of Ecology is [accepting grant applications](#) for public projects to help relieve hardships arising from the drought. These funds can be used over the next two years to help protect public health and safety from effects of the drought, and reduce economic or environmental impacts from water shortages.

The drought funding will help support projects that ensure reliable public water supplies, augment water supplies for farmers, and rescue or preserve fish runs in streams.

See this and other drought related information on the [Washington Drought 2015 webpage](#).

### Federal Drought Response: Assistance in Washington

Ranchers in many Eastern Washington counties may be eligible for financial drought relief from the federal government after the U.S. Drought Monitor reached D2, or a severe drought, for eight consecutive weeks. Read more here: [WA FSA Drought Assistance](#)



The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will make Livestock Forage Program payments to eligible ranchers in Adams, Benton, Columbia, Franklin, Grant, Klickitat, Walla Walla and Yakima counties. In these counties, the severe drought coincided with the normal grazing season, explained Farm Service Agency Program Chief Rod Hamilton, "This is in addition to the emergency loans we have available for agricultural producers in these and adjacent counties because of a Disaster Designation due to drought."

For drought, LFP payments are equal to 60 percent of the monthly feed cost. Program payments help offset higher costs of purchasing feed or forage. Currently, ranchers in the eight primary counties are eligible for one month of financial assistance. Applications are due to the Farm Service Agency by January 31, 2016.

Emergency loans are also available in contiguous counties, including: Douglas, Garfield, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pierce, Skamania and Whitman. A Secretarial (Secretary of Agriculture) Disaster Designation on June 24 triggered the availability of emergency loans.

The loans are low interest, currently 3.375% percent, with payment terms of up to 40 years. They may be used to restore or replace essential property, pay all or part of production costs associated with the disaster year, pay essential family living expenses, reorganize a farming operation or refinance certain debts.

## *New Study: Organic farming and greenhouse gas emissions*

### *Study suggests organic farming needs direction to be sustainable*

[A report conducted](#) by a University of Oregon researcher found that large-scale organic farming operations are not reducing greenhouse gas emissions, according to a review of almost a decade of data from 49 states. Increasing numbers of commercialized organic operations appear to contribute to increased and more intense levels of greenhouse gases coming from each acre of farmland.

The increasing numbers of commercialized organic operations, which now make up just 3 percent of total agricultural lands, appear to contribute to increased and more intense levels of greenhouse gases coming from each acre of farmland, reports Julius McGee, a doctoral student in the UO sociology department. His study is in the June issue of the journal *Agriculture and Human Values*.



Julius McGee - Doctoral Student  
University of Oregon

Learn more here: <http://around.uoregon.edu/content/study-suggests-organic-farming-needs-direction-be-sustainable>

## *Survey finds student loan debt preventing new farmers*

The National Young Farmers Coalition (NYFC) has released survey results showing that student loan debt is one of the key barriers preventing more would-be farmers and ranchers from entering agriculture. [Farming Is Public Service: A Case for Adding Farmers to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#) found that 30% of survey respondents delayed or declined to enter agriculture because of their student loans, while an additional 48% said student loans prevented them from growing their businesses or obtaining credit to invest in their farms.

The report contains data from a new survey of more than 700 young farmers as well as data compiled from the USDA Census of Agriculture. Highlights include:

- Only 6% of all U.S. farmers are under the age of 35. Between 2007 and 2012 America gained only 1,220 principal farm operators under 35. During the same period, the total number of principal farm operators dropped by more than 95,000.
- Survey respondents carried an average of \$35,000 in student loans.
- 30% of survey respondents said their student loans are delaying or preventing them from farming.
- 28% of survey respondents say student loan pressure has prevented them from growing their business, and 20% of respondents report being unable to obtain credit because of their student loans.

Read more here: <http://www.youngfarmers.org/new-nyfc-report-finds-student-loan-debt-is-exacerbating-farmer-shortage/>

## *Results of Grower Survey on Imperfect Produce Reported*

[Beyond Beauty: Opportunities & Challenges for Cosmetically Imperfect Produce](#), a Minnesota initiative, has released its first report, *Survey Results from Minnesota Produce Growers*.

In 2014, researchers began to explore the possibilities for expanding market opportunities for cosmetically imperfect fruits and vegetables. In particular, they were seeking to understand more about how fruit and vegetable growers view these products and to test the market for these products among collegiate foodservices.

The report compiles responses from 138 fresh-market produce growers in Minnesota. It showed strong interest in expanded markets for cosmetically imperfect seconds and revealed grower willingness to change harvesting, sorting, and packing practices on their farms if they had an attractive market for their seconds.



Report available for PDF download [here](#).

## *Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants*

These one- to three-year grants are conducted by agricultural producers with support and guidance from a technical advisor. Individual farmers or ranchers may apply for up to \$15,000, and a group of three or more producers may apply for up to \$25,000.

Producers typically use their grants to conduct on-site experiments that can improve their operations and the environment and can be shared with other producers.

Grant recipients may also focus on marketing and organic production. The 2016 Call for Proposals opened in **April 2015**, with proposals due in **December 2015**. A technical review will be held in January 2016, and proposals will be selected for funding in **March 2016**.

Details here ([Link to PDF](#))



## *Washington Crop Weather Report: Hot and Dry*

For week ending July 19, 2015 - [NW NASS Crop Weather Release](#)

In western Washington, conditions continued to be very hot and dry. Many crops without irrigation were stressed. Many corn fields were like a roller coaster with some corn half the height of others within the same field. Early field corn was tasseling. Grass fields without irrigation were shut down or brown. Winter barley combining started. Grain harvest will begin earlier than normal. There has been very little rainfall in the past 60 days. Apples were sizing up and showing color. Pumpkins were mostly in full bloom. Sweet corn was about one to two weeks out from harvest. Raspberries were done and blackberries and blueberries were coming on strong. Winter wheat harvest began.



**Jefferson County** reported hot, dry conditions. Corn was doing well but there was blight in the potatoes.

In **Skagit County**, spinach and grain crops were maturing rapidly. Sandy soil fields were struggling without irrigation regardless of the crop. New seeding grass stands were failing and potatoes were irrigated non-stop.

**San Juan County** reported another heat wave, pushing field conditions to a drier, more brittle state. Temperatures were in the 90s which was above normal for the county.

**Whatcom County** remained hot and dry. Raspberry harvest was winding down. Blueberry harvest was in full swing. The heat affected berry size. Pasture and grass were suffering from the heat and lack of irrigation.

**Chelan County** also reported hot, dry weather. Cherry and other soft fruit harvest continued. Many livestock producers were taking advantage of emergency grazing of CRP acreage as pastures suffered due to the drought.

**Kittitas County** reported hot, dry and windy conditions. Concerns over the heat and lack of water due to shortages caused producers to worry about crop losses. Pastures were short and extremely dry.

**Yakima County** also reported concerns over crop loss due to heat and lack of water. Vegetable and row crop producers abandoned fields to direct limited irrigation water to higher value crops and perennial crops. Field crews were thinning apples and harvesting peaches and nectarines. Sweet corn, sweet peppers, green and yellow beans, cucumbers, tomatoes, and summer squash were at roadside stands.

In eastern Washington, **Adams County** reported hot and dry conditions. Winter wheat harvest progressed quickly across the county and some growers were finished. Many producers in **Douglas County** were still harvesting. Temperatures topped 102 degrees.

**Franklin County** reported that the third cutting of alfalfa was in progress throughout the county. Some harvested wheat fields were being worked up for a second buckwheat crop or possibly a new seeding of alfalfa.

**Grant County** reported dryland wheat harvest was finishing up. Sweet corn harvest continued. Heat impacted potato quality. Wheat harvest continued in **Lincoln County**. **Asotin County** also reported wheat harvest in full swing. Spring wheat cuttings were beginning. Hot and dry conditions continued in **Columbia and Whitman counties** as well.

## *In Short*

### **News: Farmers reactions to Washington state's 2015 drought**

Seattle Farmers Markets recently published a blog post highlighting several farmers reactions to the current 2015 drought.

Farmers from all over the state chime in on how this drought is impacting them and their farming operation.

**You can check it out by going to:**

<http://goo.gl/z5HqoK>

### **Grant: Small Business Innovation Research Program - Phase I**

Small businesses and small proprietorships are eligible to submit applications for up to \$100,000 for a Phase I project. Proposed Phase I projects should prove the scientific or technical feasibility of the approach or concept. Projects dealing with agriculturally related manufacturing and alternative and renewable energy technologies are encouraged.

**Applications are due Oct. 8, 2015.**

Details: <https://goo.gl/SJhW10>

### **Local Foods, Local Places Technical Assistance**

[Local Foods, Local Places](#) will provide direct technical support to selected communities. A team of experts will help community members develop action plans that use local foods to support healthy families and communities and to drive downtown and neighborhood revitalization. EPA, USDA, CDC, DOT, ARC, and DRA are investing \$800,000 in this round of the program.

**Application deadline is Sept 15, 2015.**

Details: <http://goo.gl/5mKRyD>

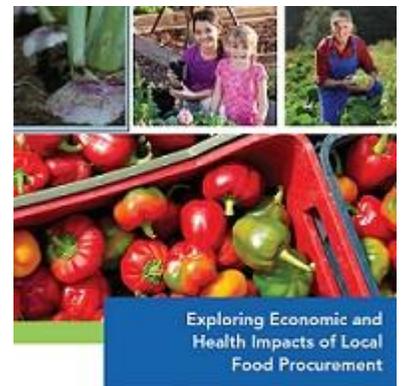
## *Exploring Economic and Health Impacts of Local Food Procurement*

Communities across the country are creating innovative and effective ways to build procurement of locally produced foods by schools, hospitals, food banks, and other institutions. To assist communities in enhancing the health and economic impacts of local food procurement initiatives, the Illinois Public Health Institute and Crossroads Resource Center are releasing a new report – **Exploring Economic and Health Impacts of Local Food Procurement**.

The report highlights practical, effective strategies for communities to add locally sourced food to their institutional food systems; recommends ways to conceptualize and measure economic and health impacts; suggests effective funding strategies; and includes Critical Analysis of Economic Impact Methodologies, which discusses the literature on the economic impact of local foods.

Case studies share insights from food system leaders in school districts, food banks, healthcare facilities, health departments, food distributors, cooperatives, entrepreneurs, and food service companies.

Read the report by going to: <http://goo.gl/Z4Y2gL>



## *Whole Farm Management Course for Beginning Farmers Offered Online*

Oregon State University Small Farms Program's course Growing Farms: Successful Whole Farm Management is now available nationally online.

The course is intended for people who are considering starting a farm business, those within their first five years of farming, and others who may be considering major changes to their farm business.

The self-paced, online course runs from June 30, 2015, through October 31, 2015.

Details here: <https://pace.oregonstate.edu/catalog/growing-farms-successful-whole-farm-management>

## *Funding Available for Local Urban/Rural Food Projects*

USDA's Rural Development's Business & Industry (B&I) Program loan guarantees can be used to establish and facilitate entities that process, distribute, aggregate, store, and/or market locally or regionally produced agricultural food products to support community development and farm and ranch income.

The term "locally or regionally produced agricultural food product" means any agricultural food product that is raised, produced, and distributed in the locality or region in which the final product is marketed, so that the total distance that the product is transported is less than 400 miles from the origin of the product, or in the State in which the product is produced.

The businesses eligible under the locally or regionally produced agricultural food products initiative may be located in urban areas as well as rural areas. Funding priority will be given to the financing of projects that provide a benefit to underserved communities. An underserved community is defined as a community (including an urban or rural community and an Indian tribal community) that has limited access to affordable, healthy foods, including fresh fruits and vegetables, in grocery retail stores or farmer to consumer direct markets AND has a high rate of hunger or food insecurity or a high poverty rate as determined by the Secretary. An eligible project does not have to be physically located in an underserved community, but its activities must provide a benefit to an underserved community. Washington State has had limited interest in use of the program for local food projects and USDA would like to change that.

For more information, please contact Greg York for **Western Washington** at 360-704-7729 or email: [gregory.york@wa.usda](mailto:gregory.york@wa.usda). Roni Baer for **Eastern Washington** 509-454-5743, Ext. 134. or email: [veronica.baer@wa.usda.gov](mailto:veronica.baer@wa.usda.gov)



Molly Fallon, Farm Manager at SpringRain Farm & Orchard, sells her company wares at the Port Angeles Farmers Market in Clallam County. Regionally produced agricultural products are sold less than 400 miles from the origin of the product. USDA Photo by Carlotta Donisi.

## *Organic Agriculture More Profitable, According to Comprehensive Study*

### WSU Study - Financial competitiveness of organic agriculture on a global scale

A study by Washington State University researchers found that organic agriculture is more profitable for farmers than conventional agriculture. The global study showed that despite lower yields, the profit margins for organic agriculture were significantly greater, with premiums ranging from 29% to 32% above conventional prices. The study concludes that there's room for organic agriculture to grow because it can remain profitable even if premiums drop over time.

The [study](#), published in June in the [Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences](#), was authored by Washington State University scientists David Crowder and John Reganold.



## *U.S. House Ag Committee SNAP nutrition hearing*

The House Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, has recently been holding a series of hearings known as the *Past, Present, and Future of SNAP*.

The [most recent hearing](#) was to discuss the **development and utilization of evidence-based solutions to improve nutrition programs**. The subcommittee heard from experts who shared how results from quality research can be implemented in meaningful ways to improve recipients' lives and better target limited taxpayer dollars.

Subcommittee Chairwoman [Rep. Jackie Walorski \(IN\)](#) said "With nearly 46 million Americans in the SNAP program, it is critical to explore how we can implement effective research that will improve the lives of recipients and the integrity of the program. Increasing the quality and quantity of research leads to more, and better, evidence-based solutions that help us as lawmakers evaluate what works and what doesn't. This way, we can target resources towards programs that can have the greatest impact on improving SNAP for both recipients and taxpayers." **Written testimony provided by the witnesses from the hearing is linked [here](#).**



## *In Short*

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Video: Yakima Basin “This River Runs Forever”</b></p> <p>“This River Runs Forever” tells the story about the effort to secure reliable water supplies for Yakima Basin families, farms, and fish.</p> <p>You can watch the 6 minute video here:  <a href="http://www.yakimariver.org/#sthash.0RmaTOG9.dpbs">http://www.yakimariver.org/#sthash.0RmaTOG9.dpbs</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Farm Service Agency Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program</b></p> <p>Through the FSA <a href="#">direct farm ownership program</a>, eligible farmers and ranchers can borrow up to \$300,000 to buy farmland, construct or repair buildings, pay closing costs, or promote soil and water conservation. New farmers and ranchers, military veterans, and underserved farmers and ranchers are encouraged to apply. Contact your <a href="#">local FSA office</a> to apply. <b>Applications must be approved by Sept 30, 2015, to take advantage of the funding available this fiscal year.</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>USDA Launches Technical Report Series on Running a Food Hub</b></p> <p>USDA Rural Development has introduced a new technical report series called Running a Food Hub. The first report, Running a Food Hub: Lessons Learned from the Field, details best business practices for starting or expanding a food hub. The report includes operational profiles of 11 existing hubs.</p> <p><a href="http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/07/15/lessons-from-the-field-a-new-series-for-food-hub-development/">http://blogs.usda.gov/2015/07/15/lessons-from-the-field-a-new-series-for-food-hub-development/</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Funding Available</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>WA USDA Rural Developments Community Programs</b></p> <p>Funding is available in Washington State for all of USDA Rural Development’s Water &amp; Environmental Programs and Community Facilities Programs.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Peter McMillin, Director, by calling (360) 704-7737 or email:  <a href="mailto:peter.mcmillin@wa.usda.gov">peter.mcmillin@wa.usda.gov</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Job Opening</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regional Food System Program Manager</b></p> <p>King Conservation District is looking to hire a Program Manager to join their team and manage this exciting new KCD program going forward.</p> <p>Please find a complete description in the PDF below.</p> <p><a href="#">Job Description (PDF)</a></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>NCREIF 2nd Quarter Farmland Index - PNW leads all regions</b></p> <p>The National Council of Real Estate Investment Fiduciaries (NCREIF) has released the second quarter 2015 results of the NCREIF Farmland Index.</p> <p>Due to a strong close to 2014, the Pacific West still leads all regions on an annual basis with a total return of 22.43% for the year-ending in the second quarter 2015.</p> <p>Read the full report by going to: <a href="http://www.ncreif.org/news-single.aspx?post=40315">http://www.ncreif.org/news-single.aspx?post=40315</a></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Conservation Client Gateway Helps Farmers, Ranchers Work with NRCS Online</b></p> <p>USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has introduced a new online portal, the <a href="#">Conservation Client Gateway</a>, that will help producers work with conservation planners online to access Farm Bill programs, request assistance, and track payments for their conservation activities. The Conservation Client Gateway gives producers a choice between conducting business online or traveling to a USDA service center.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>First West Nile virus horse case of the year confirmed in Kennewick</b></p> <p>The <a href="#">Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)</a> is reporting that a five-year-old Quarter horse gelding in Kennewick is the first equine in the state to contract West Nile virus this year. The horse, which was not vaccinated for the disease, has not left the owner’s property recently. The horse’s status is improving. Washington had five confirmed cases of horses with West Nile virus last year, including horses in Benton, Franklin, Grant, Okanogan and Yakima counties.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Effects of Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland in the PNW</b></p> <p>On July 1, 2014, NRCS released the <a href="#">CEAP-Cropland report</a> on the effects of conservation practices on cropland in the PNW Basin. Computer modeling simulations indicate that although farmers’ use of conservation practices in the PNW Basin has made good progress toward reducing sediment, nutrient, and pesticide losses from farm fields and subsequent loadings in rivers and streams in the region, significant conservation treatment is still needed to reduce nonpoint agricultural sources of pollution.</p>

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## *Mark Your Calendars*

### **Tickets Available for Inaugural Farm to Table Brunch - August 30**

Sustainable Connections and the Northwest Washington Chefs Collaborative present their first-ever Field to Flame Brunch, a seven-course fundraiser featuring seven local chefs and over a dozen local farmers in the beautiful park setting at Boxx Weddings in Ferndale.

**When: August 30, 11am – 2:30pm**

**Tickets and information:**

<http://goo.gl/8hFj2g>

### **CLE: Easements in Washington - November 20 - Seattle**

Easements and easement terms continue to become increasingly complex as they mirror legal and technical changes in our society. What was a simple temporary construction easement 30 years ago now has ramifications ranging from future development rights to tort claims.

[View Agenda, Faculty, and Pricing](#) or [Register Now](#)

### **Attention Forest Owners - Forest Owners Field Days - July and August across Washington**

Join WSU Extension Forestry for upcoming Forest Owners Field Days occurring throughout the summer in various locations in Washington. Field days will occur in Kittitas, King, Pacific, Skagit and San Juan Counties.

For full list of dates and times, go to:

<http://forestry.wsu.edu/>

### **2015-2016 WA Fair Dates**

Come participate and enjoy one of the many local fairs happening across Washington this summer. Fairs are a great place to see the next generation of farmers, and maybe pick up some tips!

For a full list of dates and locations, please go to:

[http://www.wastatefairs.com/index\\_files/Fair\\_Dates.htm](http://www.wastatefairs.com/index_files/Fair_Dates.htm)

### **August 3: One-Day University: Soil Fertility, Composting & Organic Farming, Pullman, WA**

WSU Eggert Organic Farm and the WSU Composting Facility, Pullman, 8 AM -3:30 PM, \$40 Tilth Producers members/students/interns or \$50 non-members; Lunch and tour included!

Presentations will address biologically improving soil and assessing soil in the field, crop rotations with quinoa, soil biotic activity measures, soil mycorrhizae, and compost teas. [Register here.](#)

### **Business of Making Hard Cider November 6, 2015 - Burlington WA**

The Northwest Agriculture Business Center, WSU - Northwest Washington Research & Extension Center, and the Northwest Cider Association will present a one-day cider making business development workshop for new or existing operations.

**Details here:**

<http://goo.gl/BHn9HP>



“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.”