

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2015

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

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8

### *Washington State NASS 2014 Landowner Survey Results*

In the next five years, Washington farmland landlords expect to transfer 884,214 acres to different owners, according to the results of the 2014 [Tenure, Ownership, and Transition of Agricultural Land \(TOTAL\)](#) survey released August 31 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Of these, 309,962 acres are expected to be sold to non-relatives, 94,029 are expected to be sold to relatives, and 407,254 are expected to be put in trust.

NASS conducted the survey in cooperation with the USDA's Economic Research Service to get a better insight into who owns U.S. farmland. TOTAL was the first time NASS surveyed farmland landlords since 1999. The survey results provide analysis of rented farmlands by acreage, as well as by landlords, which include individuals, as well as ownership arrangements such as partnerships, corporations, trusts, and other types of ownership.

According to TOTAL findings, there are 5,667,806 acres of farmland rented out by landlords in Washington from 23,380 farmland landlords in Washington. Of these, 3,069 were farmers, while 20,311 are non-farming landlords.

Cropland made up 84 percent of all Washington farmland rented or 4,760,957 acres, while 13 percent were pasture acres rented. The rest of the rented farmland in Washington were acres used for forests and other land uses.

Nationally, producers rented and farmed 353.8 million acres of farmland. Of these acres, 80 percent are owned by non-farming landlords. "More families are creating trust ownerships to make sure land remains in their family for farming or as an investment," said Joseph T. Reilly, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service administrator.

Only 21 million acres of land are expected to be sold to a non-relative, while 26 million acres are expected to be sold to a relative or given as a gift, according to survey results. This means only a small percentage of farmland will be available for new entrants into the farming sector.



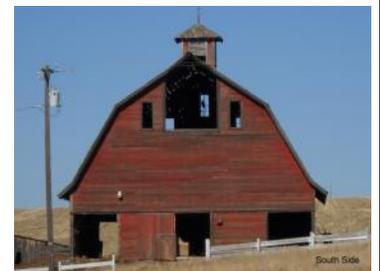
### *Grant Funding for WA State's Heritage Barns Available*

The Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation (DAHP) recently announced that applications to request funding through the Heritage Barn Rehabilitation Grant Program are available. .

Rehabilitation grants are awarded through a competitive application process. Criteria for funding include, but are not limited to, the historical significance of the barn, urgency of needed repairs, and provision for long-term preservation. Priority is given to barns that remain in agricultural use.

Historic agricultural structures listed in the Heritage Barn Register, the Washington Heritage Register, or the National Register of Historic Places, are eligible to receive grant funds. To be eligible for listing in the Heritage Barn Register, barns must be over 50 years old and retain a significant degree of historic integrity. All nomination/application materials related to the Heritage Barn Register and the Heritage Barn Rehabilitation Grant Program can be downloaded from [DAHP's website](#).

Barn owners with questions about the program are encouraged to contact Chris Moore at (206) 624-9449 or via email at [cmoore@preservewa.org](mailto:cmoore@preservewa.org). **Grant applications are due October 21st 2015, with grant awards slated to be announced in early 2016.**



Happy Home Barn, Douglas Co. **Before**



Happy Home Barn, Douglas Co. **After**

**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>

## *Attention Food System Councils*

The Gillings School of Global Public Health at UNC Chapel Hill is inviting Food Councils and other like food system groups to participate in the Food Council Self-Assessment study. The Council members, coordinators, and leaders are all invited to participate. Your time and effort will help inform best practices for food councils across the US, Tribal Nations, and Canada.



What do they mean by “food council?” Different interests working in a defined community have come together over the years with the intent of improving one or more facets of their food system (e.g. food insecurity, local food production and distribution, access to healthy food). These groups go by different names, including food councils or food policy councils. They are interested in hearing from groups whose members - organizations as well as individuals from the community - have pursued food system improvements, in part, by engaging in the public policy making process.

The assessment is anonymous and should take about 15 minutes to complete. If 8 or more members of your council complete assessments, they are happy to provide a feedback report summarizing the findings for your council to your council coordinator. This report can help your council identify strengths and areas for improvement. An example feedback report is attached to this email.

To thank you for your time, you will have the opportunity to receive \$5 at the end of the assessment if you are one of the first 500 people to participate. Please contact Larissa Calancie by email at [lcalancie@unc.edu](mailto:lcalancie@unc.edu) if you have any questions.

Click [HERE](#) if you would like to start the assessment.

## *Farmland in Clark County: County considers comp plan update*

### **Public weighs in at county land-use forum**

*By Katie Gillespie, Columbian County Government Reporter - Published: August 31, 2015*

A forum addressing Clark County’s Comprehensive Growth Management Plan update drew more than 80 people to the Vancouver Community Library on Monday.

Speakers at the packed forum, which was hosted by the Clark County Food System Council, addressed possible agricultural and economic impacts of the growth plan.

One of the speakers, Mike Bomar, president of the Columbia River Economic Development Council, said there has been a more diverse group of opinions voiced in response to the plan update than he’s seen in 10 years of being involved in comprehensive planning.

This year’s growth plan has come under scrutiny by a variety of local land-use advocacy groups and politicians, particularly after Clark County Councilor David Madore unveiled Alternative 4 to the plan earlier this year.

Alternative 1, which makes no changes to current zoning, and Alternative 3, which would bring new land into some of Clark County’s small cities, would make the smallest environmental impacts and allow for the creation of about 7,000 new lots, according to the environmental report.

Alternatives 2 and 4 would lead to changes among Clark County’s rural, agriculture and forest lands, allowing property owners to subdivide their property into smaller lots than allowed under current zoning laws. Those alternatives allow for the creation of about 8,200 new lots and 12,400 new lots, respectively.

Read the [full story here](#)



April Joy Farm, Clark County ([www.apriljoyfarm.com](http://www.apriljoyfarm.com))



Arwana Farm, Clark County

## *Find a Cultivating Success class near you*

Washington State University Extension's Cultivating Success course series makes it easier to start and maintain a successful farm business. The two core courses in the series are offered regularly in counties across the state and can be taken in any order. Sustainable Small Farming and Ranching features farmer speakers from a variety of agricultural operations and students create a whole farm plan. During Agriculture Entrepreneurship and Business Planning, students hear from lawyers, accountants, bankers, and others and complete a business plan.



\*New this year\* in Snohomish and Spokane counties: Advancing Your Farm Plan- Managing Risk. If you have already taken our core courses OR use some type of business, marketing, or whole farm plan to guide your operation, this course will help you take that plan to the next level. Visit <http://ext100.wsu.edu/snohomish/advancing-your-farm-plan/> for more information.

The courses usually take place one evening a week and last 8 to 12 weeks. Tuition cost ranges from \$150 to \$275, but some scholarships are available. The courses can be taken for Continuing Education Units.

### **Register Now To Secure Your Seat!**

The following locations will be offering classes that start as early as September. Get in contact now to register! For more details about the Cultivating Success Program visit <http://cultivatingsuccess.wsu.edu/> or contact Hannah Cavendish-Palmer at [hacp@wsu.edu](mailto:hacp@wsu.edu).

Jefferson and Clallam Counties- contact Kellie Henwood at [kellie.henwood@wsu.edu](mailto:kellie.henwood@wsu.edu)

Kitsap County- contact Laura Ryser at [laura.ryser@wsu.edu](mailto:laura.ryser@wsu.edu)

Mason County- contact Mary Dimatteo at [mary.dimatteo@wsu.edu](mailto:mary.dimatteo@wsu.edu)

Pierce County- contact Brian Bodah at [bbodah@wsu.edu](mailto:bbodah@wsu.edu)

Skagit County- contact Kate Selting at [kate.selting@wsu.edu](mailto:kate.selting@wsu.edu)

Snohomish and Spokane Counties- contact Kate Halstead at [khalstead@wsu.edu](mailto:khalstead@wsu.edu)

Whatcom County- contact Chris Elder at [christopher.elder@wsu.edu](mailto:christopher.elder@wsu.edu)

## ***New Report: Economic Trends and Resources for Blueberry production***

Washington State is the leading producer of organic blueberries in the U.S. In this publication, prospective and current growers will find recent data on acreage, production, and value to help them assess entry into, or expansion of, organic blueberry production.

Washington State is the leading producer of organic blueberries in the United States, and recent data on acreage, production, and value are presented in this report to help growers assess entry into, or expansion of, organic blueberry production.



From 2009 to 2012, organic blueberry acreage in Washington increased 130%, while production tripled. Nearly 75% of the acreage in the state is east of the Cascade Range. Washington organic blueberry producers reported a farmgate value of \$23 million for the 2012 crop, up from \$7 million for the 2009 crop. Recent average organic yields were lower than those reported by USDA-NASS for all blueberries in the state, which is partially due to the high proportion of young plantings. However, average organic blueberry market prices exceeded those reported by NASS for all blueberries. A large increase in supply of both conventional and organic blueberries is expected within the next few years because a significant portion of planted acres are not yet fully bearing and still more acreage is being planted. This could lead to a supply-demand imbalance that might depress prices.

**Read the full report by going to:** <https://research.wsulibs.wsu.edu:8443/xmlui/handle/2376/5276?show=full>

## *Follow the federal Young Farmer Success Act of 2015*

### [Young Farmer Success Act \(H.R. 2590\)](#)

This bill introduced in June 2015, amends title IV (Student Assistance) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 to include a full-time job as an employee or manager of a qualified farm or ranch within the definition of "public service job" for purposes of the public service employee loan forgiveness program.

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. A "qualified farm or ranch" earns, from the sale of agricultural products, gross revenue of at least \$35,000 in 2015, adjusted annually for inflation in subsequent years. The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where it awaits a hearing.



## *WUSATA 2016 FundMatch Program Accepting Applications*

Agribusinesses can now begin the process to become a 2016 Western United States Agricultural Trade Association (WUSATA) FundMatch participant. Made possible through the USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Market Access Program (MAP), FundMatch supports small U.S. food and agricultural exporters as they reach worldwide consumers with 50% reimbursement on international promotional expenses.

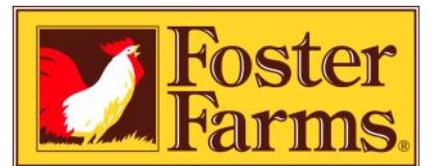
Andy Anderson, WUSATA Executive Director, said: "Global economies are hungry for innovative, safe and quality products- all that the U.S. offers and more. With funding through the USDA-FAS MAP, our companies gain a competitive edge to meet this demand essentially by doubling their marketing dollars, and as a result, see positive growth on a local level."

FundMatch (formerly known as the Branded Program) can offset a wide range of costs geared toward overseas customers including advertising, international trade show exhibition and travel, in-store promotions and more.

Interested companies can begin the application process [online](#) or contact WUSATA at (360) 639-3373 for more information.

## *Foster Farms fined for discharge of untreated wastewater*

The Washington Department of Ecology recently announced that Foster Farms in Kelso, WA faces a \$44,000 penalty for releasing untreated chicken processing wastewater from its processing facility on June 6, 2015, to the Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant, and not reporting it in a timely manner. Foster Farms intends to pay the penalty.



"Environmental responsibility is important to all of us at Foster Farms. During the installation of new wastewater treatment equipment at our Kelso, Washington, facility, an unplanned discharge occurred. While employees worked to correct the treatment issue on site immediately, the company regrets that notification was inadvertently delayed to the Three Rivers Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. Foster Farms has an excellent record of permit compliance and self-reporting. The company is reinforcing notification procedures throughout facility operations. We have also taken steps to prevent future wastewater issues. Foster Farms intends to pay the penalty," Foster Farms said in a statement.

Foster Farms is an American Humane Association certified [American Humane producer](#).

## *In Short*

### Farm Service Agency Direct Farm Ownership Loan Program

Through the FSA [direct farm ownership program](#), 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 [local FSA office](#) to apply. **Applications must be approved by Sept 30, 2015, to take advantage of the funding available this fiscal year.**

### 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>

## *Online Course Helps Farmers Set Up QuickBooks*

Cornell University's Beginning Farmers Project recently announced a new online course intended to assist farmers in setting up and having a basic understanding of QuickBooks, an accounting software program.

This course is an introduction to QuickBooks, designed to provide an overview of the QuickBooks Pro software application. It will cover the basic features, such as sales tax, inventory, invoicing, adjustments, and year-end procedures. Each student will gain hands-on experience reproducing the exercises presented by the instructor. **PLEASE NOTE:** QuickBooks software is not included in this course and will need to be purchased separately if you want to use it long-term on your farm.

This course is appropriate for people at all levels of farm experience who seek to get started using QuickBooks for their farm business record-keeping. Some understanding of elementary bookkeeping and accounting principles are helpful, and some previous exposure to QuickBooks will make the acquisition of skills much easier. If you are actively using QuickBooks and would like to improve your use of the software, this course may be too basic for you. Read through the [syllabus](#) to make sure the topics covered will be useful. **Course begins October 5 and runs through November 9.** Details and links to other Cornell University Beginning Farmers courses here: <http://www.nebeginningfarmers.org/online-courses/all-courses/>



## *Farmigo Looking for WA State Farmers, Producers and Artisans*

Farmigo -- an online farmers market that connects consumers directly to the best local farmers and producers -- is **coming to the Seattle-Tacoma region in October**. Farmigo's mission is to empower people to create a better way to eat, by creating farm-to-neighborhood access to fresh food, benefiting local farmers and bypassing supermarkets.

The fast growing company is already working with more than 150 producers in New York, New Jersey and Northern California, and they are currently looking to partner with local farmers and producers in the Seattle-Tacoma region in anticipation of their launch.

Farmigo delivers farm-fresh food directly to convenient community pick-up locations in consumers' neighborhood such as a school, a workplace, a small business or a private home.

To learn more and apply to become a Farmigo producer, please visit: [www.farmigo.com/producer](http://www.farmigo.com/producer).



## *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 product are sold less than 400 miles from the origin of the product. USDA Photo by Carlotta Donisi.

## *Latino Farmer Series Highlight Succession Planning*

The Center for Latino Farmers, in partnership with WA State Conservation Commission (WSCC) & WA State Dept of Ag (WSDA) hosted a 20- hour educational series on "Farm Sustainability & Farm Succession Planning" for Hispanic/Latino beginning farmer & ranchers. These took place in Yakima and again in Wenatchee.

The topics covered: water rights, irrigation districts, renewable energy, energy efficiency, specialty crops and farm succession planning, etc. After the estate planning session, a survey was taken to determine the percentage of producers who had a last will & testament, health care directive, power of attorney, and 98% did not have any legal documentation securing their long term assets.

This reinforces the importance of the Center in helping Latino producers with farm support and long term sustainability. "More workshops are needed!" they said.

"I was very happy to attend the estate planning series, & learned along with my brothers the importance of a living will and the right-to-farm preservation protection that assure that our land will continue for the next generation of farmers," said Ernesto Villa. Kudos to the Villas!



Villa family

## *King CD Restores Land that was "Too Wet to Farm"*

King Conservation District (KCD) recently completed the second in a series of three major projects this summer that will bring more than 160 acres of farmland back into full production as part of the new KCD Agricultural Drainage Program. Before and after photos of project are available on the [King Conservation District Agricultural Drainage Program](#) page.

The projects are being implemented through a partnership between KCD and the King County Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program, with funding from the King County Flood Control District.

In a survey this spring, more than 50 landowners expressed interest in participating in the agricultural drainage program. They reported an estimated 635 acres impacted by poor drainage, so clearly there's much more work to be done to contribute to the goal of expanding agricultural production in King County.

## *August 2015 WA State Cropland Cash Rent and Land Values Report.*



**Pear orchard, Yakima Valley**

USDA NASS recently released cash rent rates in Washington. According to the 2015 Cropland Cash Rent report for Washington, all cropland rental expense is \$208 per acre for 2015, up \$3.00 per acre from the previous year and up 18% from 2011. Irrigated cropland is estimated at \$345 per acre, up \$5.00 per acre from 2014 and up 28% from 2011. Non-irrigated cropland rental expense is \$75.00 per acre, up \$1.00 per acre from last year and up 13.5% from 2011.

On the land value side, cropland, which includes irrigated and non-irrigated cropland is up 2.7% from 2014 and 36% from 2011. Irrigated cropland is \$7,850 an acre, up 2.3% from 2014 and up 53% from 2011 (\$5,130). Non irrigated cropland is up 4.1% from 2014 to \$1,280 an acre, and up 18.5% from 2011..

Pasture ground remained consistent, up 1.2% from 2014 and 1.2% from 2011.

## *'A quiet crisis': The rise of acidic soil in Washington*

By [Sylvia Kantor](#) - *WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences*

DAYTON, Wash. – Gary Wegner first noticed the problem in 1991, when a field on his family's farm west of Spokane produced one-fourth the usual amount of wheat. Lab tests revealed a surprising result: the soil had become acidic.

Wheat farmers are now seeing this problem across the inland Pacific Northwest. The culprit, as far as anyone can tell, is the abundant use of synthetic nitrogen to increase crop yields, a practice that has otherwise revolutionized production over the past half century.

"We're riding the edge of a crisis," says Paul Carter, an agronomist and the director of Washington State University Extension in Columbia County. "We can pretty well nail it down to the addition of nitrogen to our soils for crops. In 1940 or 1950, nitrogen was applied at five pounds per acre. Now, in some areas, we're up to 100 or more pounds per acre."

Read the full story at [Crosscut.com](#).



Winter wheat affected by acidic soil. Photo: Carol McFarland/WSU.

## In Short

<p><b>Job Opening: Coupeville Farm to School Garden Coordinator</b></p> <p>Coupeville Farm to School is looking for a School Garden Coordinator to lead a NEW school-based garden program on Whidbey Island in Washington State. We are a not-for-profit organization working with Coupeville School District to support learning in the schools, inspire creativity, and promote the health of our community's students.</p> <p><b>Application Deadline:</b> September 11th, 2015.</p> <p><b>Details (PDF):</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/Ycqifs">http://goo.gl/Ycqifs</a></p>	<p><b>Job Opening: Evergreen State College has two Farmer Positions Open</b></p> <p>For complete details and to learn how to apply for this position visit: <a href="http://www.evergreen.edu/employment/staffjobs.htm">http://www.evergreen.edu/employment/staffjobs.htm</a></p> <p>There are two overtime-eligible positions available at the Organic Farm on the Olympia Campus of The Evergreen State College. All requested application materials must be submitted by the deadline in order to be considered.</p>	<p><b>Videos on Winter High-Tunnel Growing Available</b></p> <p>University of Illinois Extension, in partnership with Lincoln Land Community College, conducted high tunnel vegetable production research during the winter of 2014 and produced a series of videos on the topics of building beds, planting, growing, pest management, and harvesting.</p> <p>The videos are available on YouTube.</p> <p><b>Learn more and watch the videos by going to:</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/ys7rOX">http://goo.gl/ys7rOX</a></p>
<p><b>Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants</b></p> <p>Producers typically use their grants to conduct on-site experiments that can improve their operations and the environment, and that can be shared with other producers. Projects may also focus on marketing and organic production. Up to \$20,000 per proposal is allowed for a single producer and up to \$25,000 for three or more producers. Any producer in the Western Region may apply. <b>Details</b> <a href="#">here</a></p> <p><b>Applications are due by December 2</b></p>	<p><b>Beginning-Farmer Resource Guide Available</b></p> <p>The Leopold Center recently released <a href="#">A Resource Guide for Beginning Farmers</a>, a new publication that compiles existing training resources on everything from soil and composting to small farm equipment and whole-farm planning, including information on food safety and seed saving. The 48-page guide is divided into three parts: production practices, post-harvest handling, and business planning and basic farm finances. <b>Details</b> <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p><b>Guide Helps Farmers Develop Sales Agreements</b></p> <p>Farm Commons has released Building Strong, Legally Enforceable Sales Agreements for Production Services, available free online. This resource takes farmers through the process of developing a sales contract for production services and provides a model contract. This guide is helpful for farmers pursuing sales arrangements that fall outside the traditional producer-buyer relationship.</p> <p><b>Details</b> <a href="#">here</a></p>
<p><b>Farmers Market Manager Survey Identifies Trends</b></p> <p>A survey of farmers market managers by USDA Agricultural Marketing Service identified a number of trends amongst the nation's more than 8,400 farmers markets. Markets reported that consumer demand remains robust, and many markets are looking to expand the number and product diversity of vendors. Markets are also strengthening community engagement in numerous ways.</p> <p><b>Read more:</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/q2zLfq">http://goo.gl/q2zLfq</a></p>	<p><b>Info on WA drought designations and assistance programs</b></p> <p>The disaster designations and what they mean for drought relief can be confusing.</p> <p>Maps for counties eligible for the Livestock Forage Program, Emergency Haying and Grazing of CRP and Emergency Loans have been posted on the USDA Farm Service Agency (WA) website at <a href="http://www.fsa.usda.gov/wa">www.fsa.usda.gov/wa</a></p> <p>A link to a drought brochure with information about USDA resources can also be found on the site.</p>	<p><b>September declared Food Literacy Month in Washington State</b></p> <p>Governor Jay Inslee recently declared September Food Literacy Month in Washington state.</p> <p>The objective is to promote food education, inspire food choices that are good for the planet, encourage parental involvement, and motivate community-wide support.</p> <p><b>Read the proclamation here (PDF):</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/DXmcBa">http://goo.gl/DXmcBa</a></p>

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Mark Your Calendars

<p><b>Tilth Farm Walk Series: Sept 14 - Clark County - Accessing Land as Beginning Vegetable Farmers</b></p> <p>Hear from beginning vegetable farmers on their journey to accessing land, building a farm business, and developing outlets for direct market sales.</p> <p><b>Flyer (PDF):</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/RCUSOR">http://goo.gl/RCUSOR</a></p> <p><b>Register :</b></p> <p>Online: <a href="http://bit.ly/FW2015Quackenbush">bit.ly/FW2015Quackenbush</a></p> <p>Over-the-phone: (206) 632-7506</p>	<p><b>CLE: Easements in Washington - November 20 - Seattle</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p><a href="#">View Agenda, Faculty, and Pricing</a> or <a href="#">Register Now</a></p>	<p><b>CLE: Planning the Future of the Farm - September 24 - Seattle</b></p> <p>Co-sponsored by Washington State Conservation Commission and the WSBA Real Property, Probate and Trust Section.</p> <p>WSBA Conference Center at the WSBA Offices - 1325 Fourth Avenue, Suite 600 - Seattle, WA 98101</p> <p>(with live webcast option) Approved for 6 general CLE credits - \$275 Tuition</p> <p><b>See the flyer for full details! <a href="#">LINK</a></b></p>
<p><b>2015-2016 WA Fair Dates</b></p> <p>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!</p> <p>For a full list of dates and locations, please go to:</p> <p><a href="http://www.wastatefairs.com/index_files/Fair_Dates.htm">http://www.wastatefairs.com/index_files/Fair_Dates.htm</a></p>	<p><b>From Seed to Market: Profitable Small-Scale Vegetable Farming - Mt. Vernon - September 9</b></p> <p>Participants will hear from Andy Ross, owner and operator of Skagit Flats Farm who will share the ins-and-outs of operating a successful small-scale vegetable farm, from planting seed through selling to markets. Lunch included!</p> <p><b>Register now! Click here:</b> <a href="http://bit.ly/SeedtoMarket">http://bit.ly/SeedtoMarket</a> or call 206-632-7506.</p>	<p><b>Business of Making Hard Cider November 6, 2015 - Burlington WA</b></p> <p>The Northwest Agriculture Business Center, WSU - Northwest Washington Research &amp; Extension Center, and the Northwest Cider Association will present a one-day cider making business development workshop for new or existing operations.</p> <p><b>Details here:</b></p> <p><a href="http://goo.gl/BHn9HP">http://goo.gl/BHn9HP</a></p>
<p><b>Monitoring Rangeland Health Workshop - Sept 30th Cheney WA</b></p> <p>This comprehensive training experience covers ecological principles with hands-on activities. Both dryland and irrigated pastures will be evaluated.</p> <p>Workshop co-sponsored by Pacific Northwest Center for Holistic Management and Washington State University</p> <p><b>Registration and more available at:</b> <a href="http://pnchm.org/">http://pnchm.org/</a></p>	<p><b>WA Food Coalition 2015 Annual Conference: Yakima - Sept 30 - Oct 2</b></p> <p>Each year, the Washington Food Coalition hosts its annual conference, an event that brings together folks fighting hunger from all over Washington State. Attendees will have the opportunity to develop new relationships and projects through collaboration, share information about tools and resources, hear about new and innovative programs and services, and network.</p> <p><b>Registration details <a href="#">here</a></b></p>	<p><b>Whidbey Bread and Whole Grain Workshop, October 16 &amp; 17</b></p> <p>The 2015 Whidbey Bread and Whole Grain workshop is dedicated to helping the home baker learn from professional bakers how to bake (truly!) delicious and nourishing whole grain artisan bread, pasta, croissants, and pastries in the home kitchen. The day and a half workshop will take you from field, to milling and into the kitchen on the use of whole grains. <b>See more information and register online <a href="#">here</a>.</b></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.”