



2015 Washington State

Farmland Preservation Indicators

In 2009, the Farmland Preservation Task Force adopted a series of indicators to track trends, conditions, and opportunities around farmland. Updated in 2015, these indicators offer perspective on the viability and future of agriculture in Washington and help answer the question, "Are activities helping to improve the condition and availability of farmland in Washington?"

INDICATOR GROUP: REGULATORY BARRIERS

In some cases, regulations can impact the viability of certain agricultural businesses by increasing operational costs and labor to comply. The aggregate of the regulatory environment can be an incentive to sell the farm or move processing out of state.

The business of farming and food manufacturing

The regulatory environment can be a factor for the continued success of farms and manufacturing. The cost of coming into compliance and remaining in compliance with regulations can impact whether farmers and manufacturers are able to stay in business and grow their operations.

An example of farm compliance costs comes from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as it relates compliance costs from a rule proposed in 2013. According to FDA analysis, the costs of compliance with the Produce Safety Rule would be high for farmers.

The average cost burden of implementing the regulations would be:

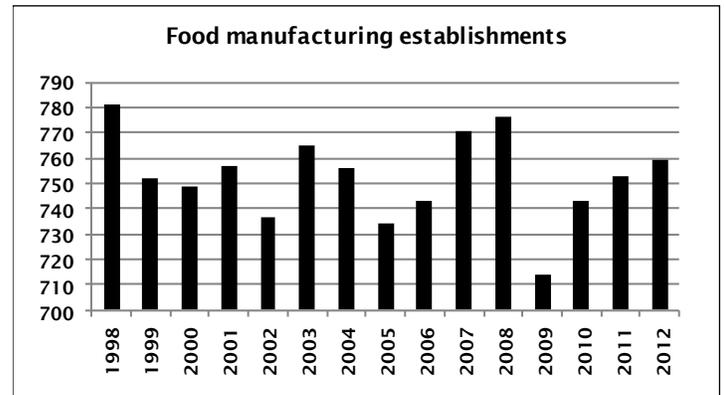
- For a "very small farm" (\$25,000–\$250,000 in annual sales): \$4,477 per year.
- For a "small farm" (\$250,001–\$500,000 in annual sales): \$12,384 per year.
- For a "large farm" (over \$500,000 in annual sales): \$29,545 per year.

More Information:

The full Washington State Farmland Preservation Indicators report is available at: ofp.scc.wa.gov

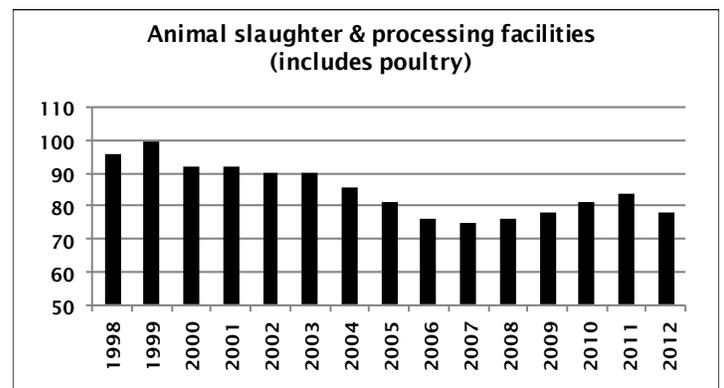
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Food Manufacturing and animal processing

Focusing on food system infrastructure, maintaining a healthy, robust food processing and manufacturing sector is important for farmers. When infrastructure leaves an area, if nothing fills the void, it becomes one less market available for Washington growers. While issues beyond regulations can factor in here, exploring goals from the regulatory and farm community will work to keep our agricultural economy healthy and growing.



Opportunity Outlook

- Identify key areas and policy where the regulatory environment may be impacting farmland and food system infrastructure in Washington.
- Ensure the health of agriculture is reflected in regulatory rule-making.