



2015 Washington State

Farmland Preservation Indicators

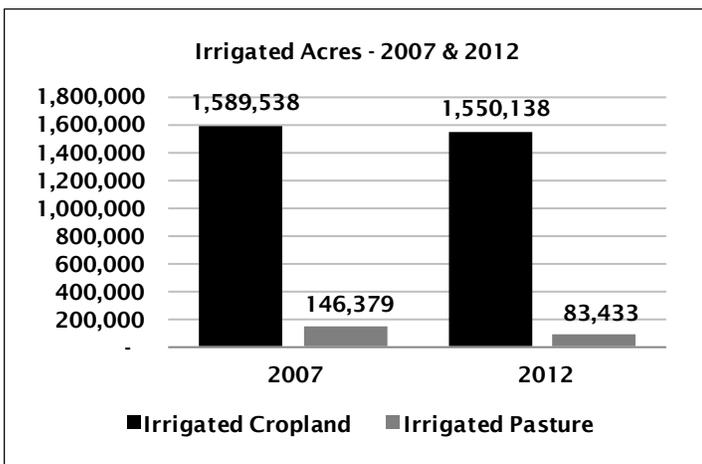
In 2009, the Farmland Preservation Task Force adopted a series of indicators to track trends, conditions, and opportunities around farmland. Updated in 2015, these indicators offer perspective on the viability and future of agriculture in Washington and help answer the question, "Are activities helping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

INDICATOR GROUP: RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

Availability and access to land with related natural resources is important to farmland preservation efforts. This grouping of indicators track water use, state-level tax incentive programs that work to preserve farms, actual acreage in production, and public ownership of land.

Water Availability

Many farms and farmers in Washington depend on access to a suitable and adequate supply of water. In many parts of Washington, land without water can limit or eliminate agricultural production. Improving water conveyance efficiencies and having water available for irrigation can lead to improved viability of land and contribute to land remaining available for continued agricultural production.



More Information:

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

Contact:

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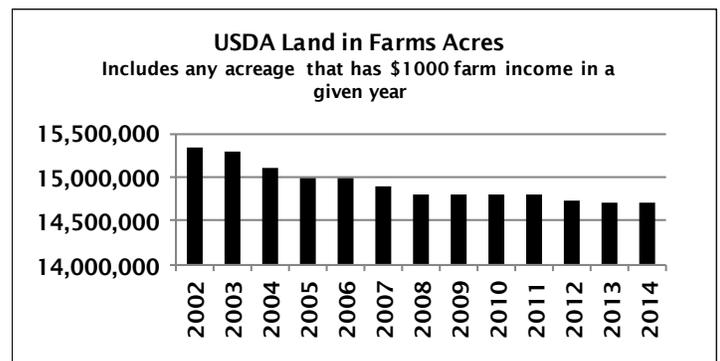
Agency	Acres - June 2003	Acres - June 2013
State Parks	133,697	137,160
DNR	116,572	151,107
WDFW	861,007	943,478
Grand Total	1,111,276	1,231,745

Public Ownership of Land

Since 2003, state ownership of land has increased by 120,470 acres (2014 Public Lands Inventory). This inventory traced agency acquisitions from State Parks, Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR), and Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Public acquisition of land at times can conflict with existing or potential agricultural activity with impacts on water resources and grazing land agreements.

Land in Farms

While overall land in farms as reported by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) continues to decline, land in crops as measured by Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is increasing. WSDA re-maps the entire state every 2–4 years at a finer resolution than the NASS, allowing them to better-illustrate changes in cropland.



Opportunity Outlook

Efforts should continue to focus on policies and protocols that improve agricultural resources while recognizing and valuing habitat and species needs.