

# Washington State Conservation Commission

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2016

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



### *2016 Legislative Session Underway*

January 11th marked the start of the state's 106th legislative session. Hearings are underway with bills of all sorts receiving public hearings.

**February 5th** will be a milestone day during this short 60 day session as it marks the day that policy bills must be moved from policy committees. Just a few days later, bills with a fiscal impact will have to have been moved by **February 9**. The day for all bills to be moved from their house of origin is **February 17**. Bills that pass this milestone start the committee process in the opposite house. Session is scheduled to adjourn Sine Die on **March 10**.



To keep track of the legislative calendar dates, go to: <http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/cutoff.aspx>.

If you are interested in commenting on a bill or contacting your legislator, the following link provides information on the various ways you can provide your opinion. <http://leg.wa.gov/LIC/Pages/hotline.aspx>.

The Office of Farmland Preservation tracks legislation as it relates to agricultural viability, regulatory impacts, protection of farmland, land use, and other topics that may have a nexus with the viability of farmland in Washington. A sample of bills that have come up in the first couple weeks are in the table below.

HB 2352	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Regarding riparian restoration and planting on farmland
HB 2509	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Implementing the recommendations of the 2015 review of the Washington wildlife and recreation program
HB 2616	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Concerning watershed management actions by watershed improvement districts
HB 2840	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Establishing a water discharge permit for concentrated animal feeding operations that is issued under the sole authority of state law.
SB 6168	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Removing drainage ditches from the definition of fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas
SB 6175	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Concerning watershed management actions by watershed improvement districts
SSB 6179	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Concerning water banking
SB 6227	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Implementing the recommendations of the 2015 review of the Washington wildlife and recreation program
SB 6392	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Enhancing transparency for certain state agency acquisitions under the Washington wildlife and recreation program.
SB 6551	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Concerning a notice of violation for discharges from agricultural activity on agricultural land based on information provided to the department of ecology by a third party.
SB 6568	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Establishing a water discharge permit for concentrated animal feeding operations that is issued under the sole authority of state law.

**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>

## *WWRP Application Webinar: Farmland Preservation Funding*

Do you need funding to preserve farmland? The Recreation and Conservation Office through the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program will be accepting grant applications for funding awarded in 2017 for all Recreation and Conservation Funding Board (RCFB) programs.



An application webinar for all 2016 RCFB grants will be happening at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 17. This Webinar will provide a high level look at the grant programs and changes to RCO policies and procedures. The webinar also will include a series of presentations posted on RCO's web site that outline specific information about the grant programs available this year and may be viewed at the applicant's leisure.

Register by going to:

<https://attendeegotowebinar.com/register/7331244838565530625>

**Application deadline will be May 2.**

## *2016 WSDA Specialty Crop Grant Program - Now Open*

Under the Farm Bill, the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) receives grant funding from USDA to enhance the competitiveness of Washington's specialty crops. WSDA conducts an annual competitive application process to award grant funds. See WSDA Specialty Crop website at: <http://agr.wa.gov/grants/scbgp/>

Specialty crops are defined as fruits, vegetables, tree nuts, dried fruits, horticulture, and nursery crops. Eligible plants must be intensively cultivated and used by people for food, medicinal purposes, and/or aesthetic gratification to be considered specialty crops. For a list of eligible and ineligible commodities, see [Definition of Specialty Crops](#) [external link].

### **2016 APPLICATION PROCESS (NOW OPEN)**

WSDA is conducting a two-phase competitive process to award an estimated \$4 million for 2016.

1) Phase I, Concept Proposal: Applicants will submit a short project proposal following the instructions and requirements outlined in the Request for Concept Proposals. The deadline to submit a Concept Proposal for 2016 funding is 5:00 p.m. (PST) on February 26th, 2016.

Late submittals will NOT be accepted.

2) Phase II, Grant Proposal: Successful Phase I applicants will be asked to submit a full Grant Proposal. Specific requirements and instructions will be included in the Request for Grant Proposals notification.

All prospective applicants are encouraged to thoroughly read the Request for Concept Proposals for eligibility and application requirements.

### **APPLICATION MATERIALS**

[2016 SCBGP Request for Concept Proposals](#) (PDF)

[2016 SCBGP Concept Proposal Application](#) (WORD)

### **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR APPLICANTS**

Here is a list of Frequently Asked Questions ([FAQ](#)) and responses for your reference.

### **SCHEDULE (Subject to Change)**

**Phase 1** - Concept Proposals Due - February 26, 2016

**Phase II** - Request for Grant Proposals Released by WSDA/Notification to Unsuccessful Applicants - April 5, 2016

Grant Proposals Due - May 3, 2016 - WSDA Application Due to USDA for Approval - July, 2016

## *Columbia River Basin Water Supply Inventory Report*

The 2015 Columbia River Basin Water Supply Inventory Report prepared by the Department of Ecology's Office of Columbia River for the Legislature is now available.

<https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1512006.html>

This report documents Ecology's ongoing efforts in developing water supplies to meet the economic and community development needs of people and the in-stream flow needs of fish.

It includes details on new projects, updates on projects currently underway, and an inventory of water developed through completed projects. It also provides a comprehensive inventory of all storage and conservation opportunities Office of Columbia River is tracking.



A newly constructed diversion at Kiona allows Kennewick Irrigation District to deliver water to satisfy the irrigation of 1,785 acres on Red Mountain

## *USDA to Offer Farm Ownership Microloans*

USDA recently announced that they will begin offering farm ownership microloans, creating a new financing avenue for farmers to buy and improve property. These microloans will be especially helpful to beginning or underserved farmers, U.S. veterans looking for a career in farming, and those who have small and mid-sized farming operations.

The microloan program, which celebrates its third anniversary this week, has been hugely successful, providing more than 16,800 low-interest loans, totaling over \$373 million to producers across the country. Microloans have helped farmers and ranchers with operating costs, such as feed, fertilizer, tools, fencing, equipment, and living expenses since 2013. Seventy percent of loans have gone to new farmers.

Now, microloans will be available to also help with farm land and building purchases, and soil and water conservation improvements. FSA designed the expanded program to simplify the application process, expand eligibility requirements and expedite smaller real estate loans to help farmers strengthen their operations. Microloans provide up to \$50,000 to qualified producers, and can be issued to the applicant directly from the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA).

To learn more, visit [www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans](http://www.fsa.usda.gov/microloans) or contact your [local FSA office](#).



## *Building Local Food Systems Topic Brief Available from SARE*

Growing in popularity on dinner tables and in restaurants, schools and grocery stores around the nation, local food has become more than a buzzword. Local and regional food sales totaled an estimated \$6.1 billion in 2012, and the movement is now one of the USDA's funding priorities: In 2014 alone, the Secretary of Agriculture announced that hundreds of millions of dollars would go to economic development in rural areas, small businesses, value-added market growth, food hubs and more. From crop production to business management to marketing, farmers wear many hats. In addition to having the tools to grow crops, they need the tools to build a strong business that capitalizes on local sales opportunities.

Building Local and Regional Food Systems is a companion to the Farm to Table topic room, which has tools for business planning, marketing, distribution and logistics issues. The topic room includes SARE-funded resources produced by farmers, ranchers, educators and other community members who are working to improve their business management, make local food more accessible to consumers and develop innovative distribution systems.

This topic brief is a companion to SARE's [Farm to Table: Building Local and Regional Food Systems Topic Room](#). Topics covered in the print brief and online include business planning, marketing, distribution and aggregation, farm to school, food processing, and community development.

Download - [Building Local and Regional Food Systems](#)

## *Farmer Professional Development Scholarships*

### **Attention greater Pierce County farmers!**

The Agriculture Community of Interest is a community-based collaboration actively focused on supporting an economically-viable and environmentally-sustainable agricultural community in the Puyallup Watershed and greater Pierce County. Our work is made possible as part of the larger Puyallup Watershed Initiative, and you can see more information on the AgCOI or the Initiative at [PWI.org](http://PWI.org).

As part of the Year 2 Work Plan, the AgCOI has received funding for professional development to farm businesses within the Puyallup Watershed. Funding requests should be no more than \$350, with the intention to support at the minimum of 8 separate farm businesses. Funding can be requested for any professional development opportunity, with examples including registration or travel fees to Cultivating Success, Focus on Farming, or the Tilth Annual Conference.

As a requirement of this funding, recipients must share what they were able to gain from the professional development opportunity, and be available for questions from other farmers within the Puyallup Watershed.

There is no deadline for applications, but funding will be awarded on a rolling basis until \$2,500 has been awarded. The Strategy 2 subgroup of the AgCOI will be judging applications. For more information, please contact Christine Cooley at [Christinec@Piercecountycd.org](mailto:Christinec@Piercecountycd.org).

Details at: <https://goo.gl/vn02xN>

## *Upcoming Value Added Producer Grant workshops*

The WA field office of USDA Rural Development agency are offering free workshops around the state to explain what Value Added Producer Grants (VAPG) can do and what's needed to apply, application scoring, and in-depth application assistance for those intending to apply.

Unlike many other USDA grant programs, Rural Development has staff here in Washington State to help and this is one of the few grant programs that can go to producers. A match is usually required. The RFP for 2016 has not yet been released.

Value Added Producer Grants may be used for feasibility studies or business plans, working capital or marketing value added agricultural products and for farm-based renewable energy projects. Eligible applicants include independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups.

Value added products are created when a producer increases the consumer value of an agricultural commodity in the production or processing stage.

In addition to supporting local and regional food networks, the program provides funding opportunities to beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers, as well as independent producers, farmer and rancher cooperatives, and agricultural producer groups.

The workshop will include discussions on grant eligibility, application process, application scoring, and in-depth application assistance for those intending to apply.

**Upcoming western Washington workshops will be held in Vancouver (Feb 4) and Olympia (Feb 9) - [flyer](#)**

**Upcoming eastern Washington workshops will be held in Wenatchee (Feb 19) and Yakima (Feb 24) - [flyer](#)**



## *Mount Vernon Farmers Market looking for a Market Manager*

The Mount Vernon Farmer's Market is hiring for a year-round, part-time Market Manager beginning with the 2016 season. The Manager will provide on-site management of the market on Saturdays (9am to 2pm, Late May-Mid-October) on the Riverfront Plaza; the market on Wednesdays (11am to 4pm, June through September) at Skagit Valley Hospital; a Harvest Market on a Saturday in November (9am to 2pm). Visit the website for the [full job description](#): Send resumes to [mvmfboard@gmail.com](mailto:mvmfboard@gmail.com). **Applications due by March 1, 2016**

## ***FSA Revises RFA to Expand Farmer Outreach and Education***

The Farm Service Agency has revised the evaluation periods for the Request for Applications (RFA) for Outreach, Education, Financial Literacy and Technical Assistance.

FSA allocated \$2.5 million to fund between 25 and 125 awards when the RFA was announced in September 2015. The purpose of the RFA was to partner with non-government organizations with a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS and public and State controlled institutions of higher education. The initial RFA also provided for four evaluation periods scheduled to occur between November 2015 and May 2016.

Due to a high level of interest during the first evaluation period that ended Nov. 20, 2015, FSA has eliminated the second and third evaluation periods scheduled for January and March 2016 and extended the final deadline date to July 11, 2016. Applications will continue to be accepted through July 11, 2016. [Learn more.](#)

## ***Legislation introduced to review Growth Management Act***

Rep. Sherry Appleton (D - 27th) recently introduced HB 2945 which would establish a legislative task force to review the Growth Management Act. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on February 3 in the House Committee on Local Government. Track this bill by going to: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfor/summary.aspx?year=2016&bill=2945>

From Section 1 of the bill:

The legislature finds that in the more than twenty-five years since its original enactment, the growth management act has significantly changed the processes and results of planning decisions and land use practices in Washington. Between 1990 and 2015, the population of Washington significantly increased from four million eight hundred seventy thousand to over seven million. In 2012, the office of financial management estimated that the state will nearly double its population, reaching eight million eight hundred thousand residents by 2040. It is the intent of the legislature to review the growth management act to identify areas of the law that may benefit from modification to better ensure that Washington's land use practices align with the needs of current and future residents.

## ***Cattlemen's Boot Camp - Kennewick, WA - April 15, 16***

Cattle producers are invited to gather for a Cattlemen's Boot Camp April 15-16, 2016, at the Benton County Fairgrounds in Kennewick, Wash. The event is hosted by the American Angus Association in partnership with Washington State University (WSU), and provides purebred and commercial producers timely information presented by academic and industry professionals.

**Registration is now available online and open until March 1, 2016.**

**Register at:** <https://goo.gl/Wj1jm1>

Open to all cattle producers, the event is funded by the Angus Foundation and features a day and a half of educational speakers and hands-on activities to help improve their herd operations. The workshop is packed with pertinent information including bull selection, reproductive technologies, genetic markets, forage management and much more.

Registration is \$75 per person, and includes meals and educational materials. Registration forms are due March 1, 2016, and can be submitted electronically or mailed to Jaclyn Clark at the American Angus Association, 3201 Frederick Ave., Saint Joseph, MO 64506. Late and walk-in registrations are not accepted.

Hotel rooms are available at the Hampton Inn located at 3715 Plaza Way in Kennewick, Wash., for \$119 plus tax until March 15, 2016. Use code "ANG" to receive the group rate.

A schedule is available by going to: <http://goo.gl/rxOpC7>



## *In Short*

### **Final Rule Exempts Organic Products from Commodity Promotion Programs**

USDA has issued a final rule to expand the exemption for certified organic products from assessments collected by commodity promotion programs and marketing orders.

The exemption is now available for all "organic" and "100 percent organic" products and extends to producers, handlers, marketers, processors, manufacturers, feeders, or importers.

Learn more by going to:

<http://goo.gl/49PYIV>

**The rule will be effective on February 29, 2016.**

### **Biological Control of Noxious Weeds - WSU Online Module**

Biological control, or biocontrol, is the intentional use of one living organism to control or suppress another organism. In weed biocontrol, this can include the use of organisms such as insects, mites, pathogens, nematodes, and mammals. Releasing insects and mites to control weed infestations is the most common form of weed biocontrol and is the focus of this presentation.

Part One covers the basic underlying principles of biocontrol, and how to effectively use biocontrol as part of an integrated weed management strategy (24 mins). Part Two covers information on specific noxious weeds and their associated biocontrol agents (46 mins).

Check it out by going to:

<https://goo.gl/V3iCiN>

### **Study Finds Water Conservation Driven by Farmer Economics**

A recent study by Texas A&M AgriLife Research found that success in saving water is driven by profit incentives.

Because farmers tend to make short-term decisions in response to current prices and input costs, a unit subsidy for saved water and a subsidy for water-conserving crops are more effective policies than are subsidies for new technology.

Researchers noted that their theoretical study of the impacts of different policy options on groundwater conservation potential was conducted after previous studies determined voluntary and incentive-based water conservation programs may have "unintended or even perverse consequences."

**The full paper can be found at:**

<http://goo.gl/ezKbhN>

## *In Short*

### **FDA Comment Period on Use of the Term "Natural" on Food Labeling Extended Until May 10, 2016**

In direct response to requests from the public, the FDA has extended the comment period for the Use of the Term "Natural" on Food Labeling. The comment period will now end on May 10, 2016. Due to the complexity of this issue, the FDA is committed to providing the public with more time to submit comments. The FDA will thoroughly review all public comments and information submitted before determining its next steps.

**For more information:**

[Federal Register Notice & Comment "Natural" on Food Labeling](#)

### **Skagit County farm fined \$16,000 for illegal irrigation**

A blueberry farm on Cockreham Island along the Skagit River has been cited for illegally watering 200 acres of blueberries this summer after repeated warnings from the Washington Department of Ecology to cease the illegal use.

Ecology has fined U.S. Golden Eagle Farms \$16,000 for unauthorized use of public water resources. The company has rights or claims that allow irrigation on 250 acres, but watered at least 450 acres this summer on its farm between the communities of Lyman and Hamilton.

Inspectors estimate the farm used between 210 and 267 acre-feet of water beyond its authorized 470 acre-feet per year.

**Details at:** <http://goo.gl/Hf4BqP>

### **Organic Antimicrobial Wash Developed for Fresh Produce**

A USDA Agricultural Research Service scientist and collaborators have developed an antimicrobial wash for fresh produce that reduces the danger of contamination from foodborne pathogens.

Researchers found that a combination of lactic acid, fruit acids, and hydrogen peroxide can be used in a produce rinse for commercial food distributors.

E. coli, Listeria, Salmonella and other foodborne pathogens sicken approximately 1 in 6 Americans (48 million people) each year. A recent U.S. outbreak of Salmonella associated with cucumbers sickened over 765 people in 36 states and killed 4. First Step+ 10 is designed to reduce those numbers.

**See the full story at:** <http://goo.gl/QCZoPi>

## *Quinault Indian Nation looking for a Mobile "Farmers Market"*

### Attention Grays Harbor farmers!

The Quinault Indian Nation (Taholah, WA) is actively looking for a mobile farmers market. They have the funding to be able to pay for gas, possibly even a stipend for the time it takes to go out there. Ideally, this mobile farmers market would accept EBT cards and WIC vouchers, but that's not a requirement.

If you have any leads or would be interested in partnering, please contact Kimberly McLaury, Nutrition Program Manager at (360)276-8215 x 438 or [kmclaury@quinault.org](mailto:kmclaury@quinault.org)

## *New Upcoming eOrganic Webinars*

<b>Upcoming Webinars</b>	<b>Presenters</b>	<b>Date</b>
<a href="#">Organic Seed Growers Conference Live Broadcast of Selected Presentations</a>	various	Feb 5 and 6 2016
<a href="#">Wild Bee Monitoring, Education, and Outreach in Organic Farming Systems</a>	Elias Bloom, Washington State University; Rosy Smit, Camp Korey	Feb 10, 2016
<a href="#">Grazing Systems and Forage Quality of Grasses for Organic Dairy Production</a>	Brad Heins, University of Minnesota	Feb11, 2016
<a href="#">A Novel Nutritional Approach to Rearing Organic Pastured Broiler Chickens (Part 2)</a>	Michael Lilburn, Larry Phelan, The Ohio State University	Feb16, 2016
<a href="#">Growing Vegetables and Fruit without Irrigation in Northern California and the Maritime Pacific Northwest</a>	Amy Garrett, Oregon State University; Jacques Neukom, Neukom Farm; Steve Peters, Seed Revolution Now and Organic Seed Alliance	Febr19, 2016 (Note: 4PM Eastern Time)
<a href="#">New Times: New Tools: Cultivating Resilience on Your Organic Farm</a>	Laura Lengnick, Cultivating Resilience LLC	Feb 23, 2016
<a href="#">Design and Management of Organic Strawberry/Vegetable Rotations</a>	Carol Shennan, Joji Muramoto, University of California Santa Cruz	March 2, 2016
<a href="#">Working With Local Organic Grains</a>	Stefan Senders, Wide Awake Bakery; Peter Endriss, Runner & Stone Bakery and Restaurant; Dan Avery, Dakota Earth Bakery; Steve Gonzalez, Sfoglino Pasta Shop	March 8, 2016
<a href="#">Good Sense Food Safety Practices on Organic Vegetable Farms</a>	Chris Blanchard, Purple Pitchfork	March 16, 2016
<a href="#">Unique Fly Control Methods for Organic Dairy Production</a>	Roger Moon and Brad Heins, University of Minnesota	March 24, 2016
<a href="#">Impacts of the Food Safety Modernization Act on Diversified Organic Vegetable Farms</a>	Erin Silva, University of Wisconsin	March 29, 2016
<a href="#">Evaluating Sprouted Grains on Grazing Dairy Farms</a>	Kathy Soder, USDA ARS	April 7, 2016

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Mark Your Calendars

<p><b>Reduced Tillage Organic Ag &amp; Cover Crop Research Field Day - April 25</b></p> <p>No-till and strip-till vegetables Cover crop selection Precision cover cropping Cover crop management Soil quality Organic fertility</p> <p><b>Where:</b> WSU Puyallup Extension</p> <p>Full details here: <a href="http://goo.gl/bUwIer">http://goo.gl/bUwIer</a></p>	<p><b>Women in Agriculture Conference March 19, 2016</b></p> <p>This years <a href="#">Women in Agriculture Conference</a> takes place at several locations across WA, OR and ID.</p> <p><b>More Info:</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/8vNbem">http://goo.gl/8vNbem</a></p> <p>Please email <a href="mailto:donna.rolen@wsu.edu">donna.rolen@wsu.edu</a> (or call 509.745.8531) for updates on our 2016 conference on March 19.</p>	<p><b>U.S. House Committee on Agriculture</b></p> <p>Wednesday, February 3, 2016 – 10:00 a.m. EST</p> <p>Subcommittee on Nutrition – Public Hearing to review incentive programs aimed at increasing low-income families’ purchasing power for fruits and vegetables.</p> <p>Watch live hearings by going to: <a href="http://agriculture.house.gov/">http://agriculture.house.gov/</a></p>
<p><b>2016 San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit - Friday Harbor, San Juan Island - February 11-13, 2016</b></p> <p>Participate in hands-on workshops on Thursday and Friday, February 11-12.</p> <p>On February 13, choose from over 20 compelling sessions led by regional experts.</p> <p>Schedule and registration details here: <a href="http://sjcarc.org/summit/">http://sjcarc.org/summit/</a>. Questions? Contact <a href="mailto:summit@sjcarc.org">summit@sjcarc.org</a></p>	<p><b>Whole Foods Local Producer Meet and Greet, Bellingham - February 18 - 9AM – 4PM,</b></p> <p>Whole Foods is looking for local producers to stock the shelves of their new store in Bellingham.</p> <p>Sign up here to reserve your session: <a href="https://goo.gl/arL2SC">https://goo.gl/arL2SC</a></p>	<p><b>Wholesale Success Workshop March 23 - Sequim, WA</b></p> <p>NOT JUST FOR WHOLESALE FARMERS! This training builds capacity of farmers at all scales to meet the burgeoning demand for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Learn how to meet your buyers’ expectations with best practices for post-harvest handling, packing, grading, food safety, and business management. Learn strategies to become more efficient and profitable.</p> <p>See the flyer at: <a href="http://goo.gl/9DiG0">http://goo.gl/9DiG0</a></p>
<p><b>Save the Date! Skagit Summit March 3 &amp; 4, 2016</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Best Western Plus Skagit Valley Inn - Mount Vernon, WA.</p> <p><b>Tickets:</b> <a href="http://goo.gl/mo2DU4">http://goo.gl/mo2DU4</a></p> <p>The 2016 Skagit Agriculture Summit (SAS) highlights new innovative ideas and farming practices while promoting agriculture.</p> <p>Check out the flyer: <a href="http://goo.gl/p47t42">http://goo.gl/p47t42</a></p>	<p><b>Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) Farm Walk March 24 - Dharma Ridge Farm, Quilcene, WA</b></p> <p>Buyers increasingly require on-farm food safety assurances. Expand your market access by learning best practices for food safety on your farm. Prepare for a voluntary GAPs audit with this farm walk and working session led by WSDA educators and GAPs auditors.</p> <p>See the flyer at: <a href="http://goo.gl/9DiG0">http://goo.gl/9DiG0</a></p>	<p><b>Local Buying Tour Event, April 4 - Poulsbo, WA</b></p> <p>Connect with other fruit and vegetable farmers and buyers on this “mobile workshop” tour that will demystify direct, local buying. Site visits and presentations from local farms and food businesses will explore the ins and outs of successful direct sales relationships, with plenty of time for farmers and buyers to talk directly about their products and sourcing needs.</p> <p>See the flyer at: <a href="http://goo.gl/9DiG0">http://goo.gl/9DiG0</a></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.”