

Washington State Conservation Commission

FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2016

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



IRS Tax Relief to WA Drought-Stricken Farmers and Ranchers

IRS Grants Tax Relief Extension to Drought-Stricken Farmers and Ranchers

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has issued Special Edition Tax Tip 2016-15, announcing that it has extended the time to replace livestock that owners were forced to sell due to drought. If you are a farmer or rancher forced to sell your livestock because of the drought that affects much of the nation, special IRS tax relief may help you. The IRS has extended the time to replace livestock that their owners were forced to sell due to drought. If you're eligible, this may help you defer tax on any gains you got from the forced sales. The relief applies to all or part of 39 counties in Washington affected by the drought.

Get more on this relief in [Notice 2016-60](#) on IRS.gov. This includes a list of states and counties where the IRS relief applies. For more on these tax rules see [Publication 225](#), Farmer's Tax Guide on IRS.gov.

More information at the IRS page: <https://goo.gl/fwAm6u>

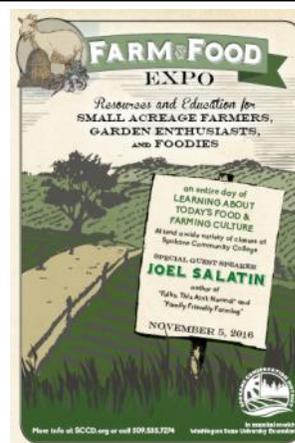
Spokane area Farm & Food Expo—Nov 5

The Farm & Food Expo is an all day conference at Spokane Community College followed by an evening keynote lecture by Joel Salatin at Gonzaga University (both are included in conference registration, but the evening lecture is also sold separately).

Check out the 90+ classes in our Course Guide! [Farm & Food Course Guide \(PDF\)](#)

This will be a full day of classes and speakers providing great insights that every small acreage farmer, garden enthusiast and foodie will want to know.

For more information, and to register, visit <http://sccd.org/departments/small-acreage/farm-food-expo>



Organic Farmer Survey identifies top challenges

The Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF) recently released its 2016 National Organic Research Agenda. The report, which provides a comprehensive analysis of the challenges facing today's organic farmers and the top priorities for future research, will serve as a key tool in advocating for increased public investment in organic agriculture.

Based on this feedback, OFRF recommends intensified research funding and attention in the areas of: soil health and fertility management, weed, insect, and disease management, and the nutritional benefits of organic food. **Read more and download the report by going to:** <https://goo.gl/90E122>

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>

WSDA Ag Briefs: Industrial Hemp

Path to industrial hemp program contains excitement and challenge

Emily Febles - WSDA Industrial Hemp Research Pilot coordinator

When House Bill 6206 became effective in June, Washington's Industrial Hemp Research Pilot (IHRP) took its first steps on a long journey leading ultimately to planting a state crop that has not been seen in the state for over 70 years. This journey is beginning with thoughtful initial steps to create a stable base from which the program can grow into a robust industry.

As with any trek, we will encounter challenges along the way. One of our first is obtaining a license from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to import industrial hemp seeds. Once we have a license, we will begin choosing the best certified seeds to start Washington's program with high quality, dependable seed stock. We've already been in contact with some industrial hemp seed suppliers around the world. We hope these connections position Washington to plant in spring 2017.

Read more: <https://goo.gl/DmFChX>

More on industrial hemp

To see an actual harvest of a hemp crop in Australia, check out this link which includes photos and video of harvest.

[Vacy farmers mow good crop of hemp](#) (The Maitland Mercury)



Hemp harvest in Vacy Australia

Whatcom County vs. Hirst, Futurewise, et al. decision

The Department of Ecology recently provided an update on the recent water right decision in Whatcom County. A recent State Supreme Court ruling affects counties' responsibilities under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to review permit-exempt (e.g. household) wells for building permits. What this means for each county and for property owners has yet to be determined.

In the [Whatcom County vs. Hirst, Futurewise, et al. decision](#), the Supreme Court ruled that the county failed to comply with the GMA's requirements to protect water resources. It asks the county to go beyond Ecology's in-stream flow rule for the Nooksack River when proving legal availability of water for rural development.

More info at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/WR/nwro/hirst.html>

Attention small-scale operators!

Options Help More Beginning, Small and Urban Producers Gain Access to Credit

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the availability of a streamlined version of USDA guaranteed loans, which are tailored for smaller scale farms and urban producers. The program, called EZ Guarantee Loans, uses a simplified application process to help beginning, small, underserved and family farmers and ranchers apply for loans of up to \$100,000 from USDA-approved lenders to purchase farmland or finance agricultural operations.

They also unveiled a new category of lenders that will join traditional lenders, such as banks and credit unions, in offering USDA EZ Guarantee Loans. Microlenders, which include Community Development Financial Institutions and Rural Rehabilitation Corporations, will be able to offer their customers up to \$50,000 of EZ Guaranteed Loans, helping to reach urban areas and underserved producers. Banks, credit unions and other traditional USDA-approved lenders, can offer customers up to \$100,000 to help with agricultural operation costs.

Full details at: <https://goo.gl/CYcbzr>

Funding Opportunities

GRANT: Fund-a-Farmer Grant

Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is accepting applications for Fund-a-Farmer grants up to \$2,500. Working, independent, family farmers who raise pigs, broiler chickens, laying hens, turkeys, dairy cows, and/or beef cattle may apply for Animal Welfare Certification Projects or Pasture Improvement Projects. Applicant farms must hold or be working toward one of six specified humane certifications for their livestock or poultry.

The application deadline is November 21, 2016.

Details: <https://goo.gl/9JDA5t>

GRANT: Organic Farming Research Foundation Grants Program

The Organic Farming Research Foundation is accepting proposals for research on organic farming and food systems and the dissemination of these research results to organic farmers and agricultural and research communities. Projects must involve farmers or ranchers and take place on certified organic land. Priorities for funding are small grain production, soil health, social science research, and animal production.

The deadline for proposals is December 10, 2016.

Details: <https://goo.gl/d7Fhgl>

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program

USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture requests applications for the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program for fiscal year 2017. The program supports the delivery of education, mentoring, and technical assistance programs to help beginning farmers and ranchers in the United States and its territories with entering, establishing, building, and managing successful farm and ranch enterprises. Approximately \$17.7 million is available for grants.

Applications are due Dec 8, 2016.

Details: <https://goo.gl/8CRsGT>

Washington State Farmers Market Management Toolkit

Timely Information, Tips, and Templates to Build Your Market Organization

Market managers, boards, vendors, and other key organizers must balance an ever-growing range of management demands. The 2016 update of the **Washington State Farmers Market Management Toolkit** curates key resources on behind-the-scenes topics such as strategic planning, collecting market data, board recruitment, bookkeeping, finding (and keeping) vendors, accepting SNAP EBT, credit/debit, and other “market currencies,” market promotions, as well as legal, regulatory and policy issues.

The online Toolkit is designed to be updated in real time and includes downloadable forms, templates, and other resources for growing markets to adapt and use.

www.wafarmersmarkettoolkit.org

Washington State farmers markets can obtain a hard copy of the Toolkit by contacting Karen Kinney (karen@wafarmersmarkets.org) or attending the [2017 WSFMA Conference](#) on February 2-4



Value of Washington's 2015 Ag Production Totals \$10.7 Billion

The value of Washington's 2015 agricultural production reached \$10.7 billion, setting a new record high. This is 5 percent above the previous record high in 2014 of \$10.2 b.

Much of the increase in the total value of production can be attributed to the record high value of apples which increased 27 percent from 2014. Apples remain the leading agricultural commodity in the State with a 2015 value of \$2.40 billion. Record high values of production were established for four of the top ten Washington commodities, including apples, cattle and calves, eggs, and hops.



Read the full NASS report for Washington at: <https://goo.gl/GmCAE6>

Washington State Food System Roundtable

The Washington State Food System Roundtable, a group initiated through a 2012 executive order, recently released a draft proposed roadmap to carry out a 25-year vision for a sustainable food system. The draft Prospectus provides an initial roadmap for Washington to progress towards the 25-year vision, and stewardship options to carry the movement forward. We are unveiling this roadmap - our Prospectus - in stages, starting with an executive summary and our key Action Areas and related strategies.

You can download and learn more by going to: <http://wafoodsystem.weebly.com/draft-food-system-prospectus.html>

You can also engage in this effort as the Roundtable will be holding engagement meetings around the state over the next month.

Meetings will be occurring over the next month in Okanogan, Bellingham, Bremerton, Yakima, Chelan, Walla Walla, Olympia, Seattle and Vancouver.

For a full list of dates go to: <http://wafoodsystem.weebly.com/engagement.html>



13th Focus on Farming—Nov 3—Monroe

The 13th annual Focus on Farming conference "Solutions for a Growing World," will be held November 3, 2016 at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, WA. The conference will also include Focus on Forestry workshops.

Participants will spend an outstanding day of learning, networking and enjoying farm fresh local products prepared by fantastic chefs from the Mill Creek Country Club. Local and national farmers, researchers and experts will share innovative ideas, and attendees will learn how new and upcoming farmers are shaping the future of the agricultural world and providing tomorrow's food. Some of the top experts in the country will present 24 great workshop classes in six industry tracks.

View [more details](#) and register today!



Local Conservation District Helps With Cow Chip Throwing Contest

By Lyle Stoltman - Grant Conservation District Livestock Coordinator

Conservation District employees are here to help and cheerful Kelly Wallace is no different. One of her favorite sayings is; "I love it when a plan comes together". She was sure to be pleased by the outcome of this unusual request which came into the CD office in Moses Lake, WA.

The phone rang and the caller was briefly put on hold before being transferred over to Livestock Program Coordinator Lyle Stoltman, who was eager to assist.

The caller's name was Dee, she was from a Seattle area RV club (Kirkland) that would be spending time in Grant Co. the following week. They were organizing a "cow chip" throwing competition and were looking for a source of cow pies for the competition.

She was referred from another agency who told her the Conservation District could help. Her request was for 20 or so dried cow pies but admitted she would be happy if he could help her find at least one (1). Stoltman was a little bewildered because of the unusual request. He told her he could probably find a source but had to think about it. She said she would call him back after the weekend.

Read how this all ends by going to: <https://goo.gl/rL6A1I>



In Short

Center for Latino Farmers Fall Newsletter available

The Fall edition of the Center for Latino Farmers newsletter is now available.

The Center, whose mission is to encourage community development through self employment opportunities for low income entrepreneurs, works directly with farmers all across Central Washington.

This edition includes a story on the untimely passing of a leader in the Latino farm community, Evaristo Silva Sr. Our condolences to all those that knew him.

Download the newsletter at:

<https://goo.gl/c3r1gA>

Season 4 Washington Grown— episodes airing on TV and available on YouTube

Washington Grown recently began airing season 4 episodes on October 1 & 2.

Below is all the information you need to know about watching the show on cable as well as online.

Saturdays 5:30pm; Sunday noon & 8:30pm.

Where: Northwest Cable News

Each episode will be posted on [Washington Grown YouTube](#) by the Tuesday following the original air date.

[Sign up](#) for their monthly Newsletter.

Attention Farmers: WSDA wants to hear from you

The Washington State Department of Agriculture invites you to participate in our Farm Survey, as part of an ongoing effort to improve the outreach and education resources we provide.

Take the survey by clicking here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/farmer16>

WSDA conducts this survey every two years.

Questions about the survey? Email survey coordinator [Karen Ullmann](#) or call (206) 256-6151.

In Short

Job Opportunity: Bi-Lingual Project Manager, Northwest Ag Business Center (NABC)

This individual is responsible for managing projects in the NABC service areas of northwest Washington, primarily those projects that involve Spanish-speaking Latino clients. Projects generally technical business development training and support, access to marketing, access to financing, and infrastructure development.

NABC provides Northwest Washington farmers with skills and resources required to profitably and efficiently supply their products to consumers, retailers, wholesalers, foodservice operators and food manufacturers.

Position Details and application: <https://goo.gl/QA9xyK>

Irrigation efficiencies and mobile nutrient recovery subject of two awards to WSU by USDA

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently announced the investment of \$26.6 million into 45 projects that will spur innovative conservation initiatives on both rural and urban farms across the country.

Two grants totaling nearly \$1million were awarded to WSU to further advance irrigation efficiencies and improve cost efficiency of transporting manure nutrients from regions of dense populations of animal agriculture operations to areas that have a demand for manure nutrients.

Project details at: <https://goo.gl/2YeY3O>

WA Land Value Survey

The Northwest Farm Credit Service Land Value Survey is an overview of agricultural real estate values and trends throughout the Northwest. Written by Northwest FCS appraisers, it is released quarterly.

Northwest land transactions during 2016 are lagging behind 2015 levels. The majority of the transactions continue to occur between landlords and existing agriculture operators. Interest from investors for agricultural properties in many areas remains strong. Demand and market activity are reportedly mixed throughout the Northwest and are generally dependent upon property type and/or market segment.

[September 30, 2016 Land Values](#)

WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Mark Your Calendars

<p>4th Annual San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit—Feb 10-12</p> <p>Where: Orcas Island, WA</p> <p>Join fellow farmers, regional experts, local food and farm advocates for 3 days of education, inspiration and camaraderie.</p> <p>More information can be found at: http://sjcarc.org/events/summit/</p>	<p>Poultry Institute 2016 Program - Nov. 10, 2016</p> <p>WSU Puyallup Extension Center— 2606 W Pioneer - Puyallup</p> <p>8:30am - 2:30pm (lunch provided)</p> <p>Poultry Institute Program 2016 (PDF) Registration Form (PDF)</p> <p>Program page: https://goo.gl/lXCUjp</p>	<p>Farm Financial Management November 2016—Wenatchee, WA</p> <p>The Center for Latino Farmers will be hosting a 20-hr educational series on Farm Financial Management for farmers in the Wenatchee area.</p> <p>To register or receive more information, please call Maria Giedra 509-453-3157.</p> <p>Date: November 7, 8, 9, 10, 2016 Time: 5:00 pm– 9:00 pm (each day) Place: Wenatchee Valley College Cost: \$50/person or \$75.00/Couple</p>
<p>Law CLE: Agriculture Law February 16 & 17—Wenatchee</p> <p>There are unique regulations and legal issues faced by companies in the agriculture industry. Anyone involved in the agribusiness, be it growers, ranchers, distributors, service providers, or legal representatives, need to be up to speed on the latest issues to achieve their goals.</p> <p>Agenda and details at: https://goo.gl/aF7omb</p>	<p>Washington Small Fruit Conference & Lynden Ag Show, Lynden WA Nov 30—Dec 2</p> <p>Washington Small Fruit Conference is a 3-day conference with latest relevant research information delivered by the scientists performing the research. Lunches each day are provided.</p> <p>Remote viewing available in Prosser.</p> <p>Registration and full details at: https://goo.gl/mFWUDu</p>	<p>Tilth Annual Conference Wenatchee Conference Center November 11-13:</p> <p>Every year, the Tilth Conference brings together hundreds of farmers, producers, researchers and food system professionals to network and learn. This is a great way to meet others in your field, enjoy locally sourced meals and participate in fun evening events around Wenatchee.</p> <p>Details available by going to: http://goo.gl/DzNJPT</p>
<p>Free: Agriculture Business Training November 4, Tumwater</p> <p>This free training event hosted by the state Labor & Industries will offer 24 courses to choose from over the course of the day.</p> <p>These range from ag employment standards to business planning.</p> <p>Register and see the full list of courses being covered by downloading the PDF at: https://goo.gl/O9YcqT</p>	<p>9th Annual Water Rights Transfers CLE—November 9/10—Seminar Available via Live Webcast</p> <p>This seminar is designed to provide information of vital interest to water right holders, developers and advocates.</p> <p>To view full agenda, which includes registration information and pricing, go: http://goo.gl/TEvzjG</p>	<p>5th Annual Easements and CCRs in Washington—Seattle, WA - Nov 4, 2016 Seminar—Available via Live Webcast.</p> <p>Easements are often skimmed over, not discussed and buried someplace in a title report. However, what you don't know can hurt you.</p> <p>To view full agenda, which includes registration information and pricing, go to: http://goo.gl/j4Z0bV</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.”