

# Washington State Conservation Commission

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017

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



### *2017 Legislative Session—Sine Die April 23*

As the 107th legislative session rolls on, legislators of late have been busy on their respective floor's voting out bills ahead of the last major cutoff—the Opposite House Cutoff on April 12. All bills that have made it this far must be passed from the opposite house floor by the 12th.



Session is scheduled to adjourn Sine Die on **April 23**.

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. Bills below are still active and moving.

To learn more about individual bills, select the bill page link. Once at the bill page, you can select either the actual text of the bill or review the bill reports (recommended). Bill reports provide background, effect of bill, and summary of public testimony.

<u>Bill Number</u>	<u>Bill Page</u>	<u>Bill Title</u>	<u>Current Status as of March 2</u>
SHB 1017	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Addressing the siting of schools and school facilities.	On 2nd reading in House
SHB 1544	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Concerning small farms under the current use property tax program for farm and agricultural lands.	Did not pass
HB 1562	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Continuing the work of the Washington food policy forum.	Passed House, Passed Senate Ag, currently in Senate Ways and Means
SB 5010	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.	Public Hearing March 28
E2SSB 5239	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Ensuring that water is available to support development.	Public Hearing March 28
SSB 5808	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Concerning agritourism.	House Rules

**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>

## ***GMA—Ferry County Compliance Determination***

### GMA and Department of Commerce Update

In 2014, the Legislature adopted Engrossed House Bill 1224 which authorized a process for counties with a population of 20,000 or fewer inhabitants to withdraw from fully planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA).

A county that is out of compliance with the GMA is required to address any outstanding issues in its comprehensive plan or development regulations and submit an application to the Department of Commerce (Commerce) for a determination of compliance. Ferry County submitted an application on Nov. 3, 2016. After reviewing the record, Commerce determined that the county addressed the outstanding issues of noncompliance identified by the Growth Management Hearings Board and the courts.

For additional information about this decision, please contact Dave Andersen at [dave.andersen@commerce.wa.gov](mailto:dave.andersen@commerce.wa.gov) or review Commerce's analysis here:

[Ferry County Compliance Determination](#) (PDF)

## ***King Conservation District—Regional Food System Grants***

The King Conservation District Regional Food System Grant Program was initiated to provide a catalyst for making local food production more ecologically and economically sustainable. The program funds projects that contribute to the economic viability of local farmers, encourage new farmers, expand acreage in food production, improve food access, and increase demand for King County farm products.



### **2017 KCD Regional Food System Grant Application Process**

Pre-proposals for 2017 grants are due by 4:00 PM, on April 24th. The maximum award will be \$100,000. Requests for Full-Proposals will be due June 22, 2017. Recipients will be announced October 10, 2017.

Click through to find the pre-proposal RFP and related forms. Also available is the grant timeline.

<http://kingcd.org/programs-regional-food-system-grant-program.htm>

## ***Voluntary Stewardship Program Update***

On March 27, Chelan County submitted their Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) work plan to the Commission.

The public is invited to comment on any VSP work plan submitted to the VSP Technical Panel within 14 days of submittal.

The public has until April 10, 2017 to comment on the Chelan County VSP work plan.

The public can use this [public comment form](#) to capture any comments made. The work plan can be accessed from the [Commission's VSP web page](#) or through a direct link to the work plan [here](#).

Washington State's Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) provides an alternative approach for counties to address our state's [Growth Management Act](#) requirements.

The program uses a watershed-based, incentive-based process to protect critical areas, promote viable agriculture, and encourage cooperation among diverse stakeholders. [Learn more background about VSP.](#)



## ***Meat Marketing and USDA Processing Educational Workshops***

Two upcoming opportunities to learn about local meat marketing and processing. These workshops will focus on market demand for local meats, economics, and processing options to help determine what is best for your livestock enterprises. Two dates and locations to choose from.

**Wednesday, April 12, 2017—11:00 am - 2:00 pm—Enumclaw Expo Center—Enumclaw, WA**

**Saturday, April 22, 2017 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Carnation Farms—Carnation, WA**

Click here to register. <https://goo.gl/GPbDZQ>

## ***WSU sparks interest in vacancy-heavy ag career fields***

By Scott Weybright, College of Agricultural, Human & Natural Resource Sciences

For many high school and minority students who grow up in agriculture families, leaving the farm is a primary goal. But Washington State University's Spark program is igniting interest among these teens in rewarding, profitable jobs in ag, where vacancies far outnumber applicants.

"We wanted to show them that they can use knowledge they've gained growing up to have an exciting and lucrative career," said Kari Sampson, assistant director of recruitment and retention in WSU's College of Agricultural, Human and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS). "We wanted to increase their interest and change their perception of agriculture.

"And the feedback we got showed we did just that," she said. "We even heard from one young woman who is applying to WSU based purely on what she learned at a Spark tour. It's exciting to have that kind of direct impact." [Read More](#)



## ***NABC—Update on the Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative***

March 3, 2017 by Terri Hanson

The Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative (PSFH) has continued to expand in preparation for this year's upcoming season. In early January, JoanE Mcintyre joined the Hub team as our Marketing and Sales Manager. In the past weeks, JoanE has been working in tandem with the Hub's General Manager, Terri Hanson, and our Marketing Committee, chaired by Kai Ottesen (Hedlin Farms), to develop a broad marketing and sales plan that will work with both large institutional buyers and smaller entities like restaurants, caterers, and small food coops.



[Read more](#) to find out about employment needs and contact information. <https://goo.gl/T8c2OP>

## ***Drought Well Loan Program***

Ecology recently announced an opportunity for eligible applicants to obtain low-interest loan funding for construction or retrofitting of drought wells.

You can read more about the Drought Well Loan Program at <https://goo.gl/RKZKlr>

The program helps eligible applicants reduce drought-related hardships and strengthen resiliency to future droughts. It offers below-market rates to fund costs of wells that are used when there's a state drought declaration.



## *Tax guides provide tips for businesses*

Own a farm? Interested in viticulture? Learn how state taxes apply to these – and many other types of businesses – by using industry specific tax guides created by the Washington State Department of Revenue (Revenue).

Thousands of users access these guides monthly. The most frequently used guides cover tax issues for out-of-state businesses, the construction industry and nonprofits. All 49 guides are on the [Revenue website](#).

These guides consolidate general tax information that applies to certain types of businesses operating in the state or selling to Washington consumers.

For instance, beekeepers may be eligible for a sales tax exemption on their honey bee purchases. Grape farmers will find out they do not need a Revenue tax registration account if they only make wholesale sales.

Revenue advises businesses to [contact the department](#) with specific questions not covered by the guides and sign [up for emails](#) that share changes to tax policy.



## *Governors Results Washington—Working Lands*

The Governor's Results Washington group recently met to discuss Results Washington priority 4.1.a—Cropland. You can view the 1.5 hour results review by going to: <https://goo.gl/nKeUVq>

The Results Review included presentations on maintaining/increasing statewide acreage dedicated to working farms (cropland), agriculture stability and the comprehensive strategy in the Skagit. The four key elements that were presented were: 1. Farmland Protection; 2. Economic Viability; 3. Agricultural Infrastructure; and, 4. Community Support

The Results Washington goal is to increase the net statewide acreage dedicated to working farms (cropland) from 7.237 million to 7.347 million by 2020 and Maintain current level of statewide acreage dedicated to working farms (cropland) with no net loss. This goal is currently on target.

### **Why is this a priority?**

Maintaining and increasing our ag land base is necessary to preserve and enhance our state's agricultural economy, protect our state's natural resources and ensure we can feed future populations of our state and the world.

A predicted increase in the state's population over the next 25 years totaling 1.8 million people will continue to increase pressure on the state's agricultural land base and accompanying infrastructure. These pressures will be recognized in both Western and Eastern Washington in the form of urban and rural development, increased competition for prime grazing lands, and loss due to conversion for habitat and environmental considerations.

Learn more about this Results Measure by going to: <https://goo.gl/6FvLbv>

## *USDA seeks nominations for two advisory groups*

USDA is soliciting nominations for membership to fill positions on the Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers and the Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers. The Beginning Farmer Committee advises on matters broadly affecting new farmers and ranchers including strategies, policies, and programs that will enhance opportunities and create new farming and ranching operations. The Minority Farmers Committee will advise the Secretary of Agriculture on strategies to heighten participation of historically socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers in the USDA's assistance programs. **Learn more:**

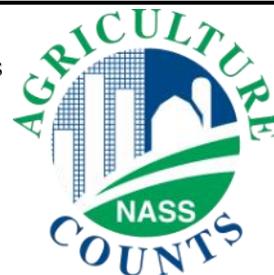
Advisory Committee on Beginning Farmers and Ranchers - <https://goo.gl/Ysz4yn>

Advisory Committee on Minority Farmers - <https://goo.gl/o94oR2>



## *Washington Farms and Land in Farms Report*

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service recently released the annual Farms and Land in Farms report. This annual data presents on the number of farms in operation, land in farms, and average size (acreage) of farms for individual states and the U.S.; includes economic sales class estimates for number of farms, land in farms, and average of farms.



National report available at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

Washington report available at: <https://goo.gl/djmiif>

The number of farms in Washington for 2016 is estimated at 35,900, down 100 farms from 2015. Total land in farms remained at 14.7 million acres. The average farm size for 2016 is 408 acre, up 1 acre from the previous year. Sixty percent of all farms had less than \$10,000 in sales. Eighty-three percent of all farms had less than \$100,000 in sales. Seven percent of all farms had sales of \$500,000 or more.

## *Small Fruit Food Safety: Managing from Field to Market*

This April 20 workshop is a one-day in-depth focus on food safety practices, regulations, and science. We will present information pertaining to food safety in the field to the market including water sampling, certification processes, harvest, and packing. It is intended for all small fruit producers.

The workshop originates from Prosser at the Walter Clore Center. Most presentations will be delivered from Prosser and streamed to Mount Vernon and Lynden, with opportunity for all audience members to participate in the Q and A sessions.

Learn more about agenda and registration at: <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2908400>



## *Food Policy: FINI Grant Program: 2015 Program Results*

The 2014 Farm Bill created a new competitive grant program to test the idea that providing incentives to SNAP program participants to buy fruits and vegetables could increase the consumption of produce and improve dietary health. The first Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive (FINI) grants were made in the Spring 2015 supporting produce incentive programs in 27 states (including Washington) at 900+ farmers markets, 50+ grocery stores, and 70+ non-traditional farmer-to-consumer food retailers serving rural and urban communities across the country.

This report summarizes year one results of FINI-funded medium and large size projects. Highlights include more than \$8 million in fruit and vegetable purchases stimulated from the FINI-funded projects, helping thousands of low-income SNAP households and increasing sales for more than 1,000 farmers.

Download the 4-page report at: <https://goo.gl/jiivRL>

## *Direct-Marketing Factsheet Addresses Mobile Media Marketing*

How the world communicates is changing. Currently, 94 percent of smartphone users conduct business on their phones, and 87 percent use a search engine at least once a day. Emerging trends in social, mobile and location-based marketing present unique opportunities and risks for farmers and other food businesses.

Businesses can benefit by staying close to customers and technology trends in order to do what they have always done with marketing: create awareness; offer trial experiences to demonstrate value; create remarkable experiences; build customer relationships based on trust; and deliver service focused on customer convenience.

Learn more at: <http://ohioline.osu.edu/factsheet/anr-53>

## *In Short*

### **Pierce County - Comprehensive Plan amendments to establish agricultural production districts**

A recent meeting of the Community Development Committee heard amendments introduced by Commissioner Derek Young to among other planning elements, establish agricultural production districts in Pierce County.

The amendments to the comprehensive plan were heard along with public testimony on March 20.

Public testimony included both proponents and opponents.

You can review the amendments and public testimony here:

<https://goo.gl/ICWMoF>

### **WA State Senate Capital Proposal \$80 million for WWRP**

On March 28, the state Senate unveiled their 2017-19 Capital Budget.

Follow the link to review the proposed budget:

<https://goo.gl/kTCVM9>

For farmland preservation interests, the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) would see just under \$7 million dedicated to farmland preservation projects.

The Governor proposed spending \$100 million in WWRP. The House will be next to submit a proposal then a final reconciliation will need to occur.

**Follow the progress at:**

<https://goo.gl/kTCVM9>

### **Quarterly Newsletter from WSU's Veterinary Medicine Extension**

Spring 2017 edition includes:

- Weak Calf Syndrome Investigation
- Livestock: Managing Mud
- Dairy: Want More Milk Fat?
- Cattle: Made in the Shade
- Beef: Wet Muddy Lots = Footrot
- What's New at WADDL
- WSDA Corner
- Mobile Health Certificate App
- Continuing Education

**Download at:** <https://goo.gl/LbTsbJ>

## *In Short*

### **Job Opportunity: Farm Stand Manager**

Cascadian Farm in Rockport WA is hiring for full-time year-round Farm Stand Manager. It is a salaried position with great benefit package including medical, dental, vision and a generous 401K match.

Stand Manager is responsible for efficient and profitable management of the Roadside Farm Stand. The Stand Manager will provide strategic leadership for the seasonal stand team members, and facilitate a fun, safe, and memorable experience for our more than 50,000 annual visitors.

<https://goo.gl/FPNzdh>

### **Lopez Island Farm open for long-term lease**

[Lopez Community Land Trust](#) is seeking proposals for a long-term lease on 48 acre [Stonecrest Farm](#) on Lopez.

The lessee must be willing to commit to a minimum 60-month lease with the desire to enter into a longer-term lease.

See RFP at link below for more details. A letter of interest is due by April 17th.

This is a fabulous opportunity for a farmer, or group of farmers, to farm on a well established farm on Lopez.

**Learn more at:**

<https://goo.gl/W9KfLH>

### **Job Opportunity: Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative is hiring**

The Puget Sound Food Hub Cooperative (PSFHC) is recruiting for a Sales & Marketing Manager and an Operations Manager.

PSFHC is a farmer owned cooperative operating in the Puget Sound region.

[Click Here](#) for Job Description and application process for **Operations Manager**

[Click Here](#) for Job Description and application process for **Sales & Marketing Manager**

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Mark Your Calendars

<p><b>April 25: WSU Forest Stewardship Coached Planning Course Enumclaw</b></p> <p>Kickoff for an eight-week series of professional workshops for owners of both small and large forest properties.</p> <p>Learn how to assess your trees, avoid insect and disease problems, attract wildlife, and take practical steps to keep your forest on track to provide enjoyment and even income for years to come.</p> <p><a href="http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/">http://forestry.wsu.edu/nps/events/</a></p>	<p><b>Local Meat Marketing and USDA Processing Education Workshops—April 12 &amp; 22</b></p> <p>Workshops will focus on market demand for local meats, economics, and processing options to help determine what is best for your livestock enterprises.</p> <p>Workshops in Enumclaw (April 12) and Carnation (April 22).</p> <p><b>Register.</b> <a href="https://goo.gl/GPbDZQ">https://goo.gl/GPbDZQ</a></p> <p><b>Flyer:</b> <a href="https://goo.gl/B5tTnK">https://goo.gl/B5tTnK</a></p>	<p><b>Changing Lands, Changing Hands—Denver, June 13-15</b></p> <p>Land access, agricultural land tenure and farm succession are top challenges for US agriculture.</p> <p>In cooperation with USDA, Land For Good is proud to host this national event.</p> <p><a href="http://landforgood.org/our-work/changing-lands-changing-hands/">http://landforgood.org/our-work/changing-lands-changing-hands/</a></p>
<p><b>Local Foods Impact Conference—April 3 &amp; 4—Washington D.C. (livestreaming available)</b></p> <p>Explore how to best measure the impacts of local food investments, improve coordination across USDA agencies, and evaluate the extent to which disparate local food investments are complementary and reinforcing.</p> <p>Learn more at: <a href="http://localfoodsimpact.org/">http://localfoodsimpact.org/</a></p>	<p><b>3rd National Farm Viability Conference - Albany, NY May 22-24, 2017</b></p> <p>The National Farm Viability Conference is geared towards professionals in the fields of farm and food business planning, financial planning, agricultural financing, farmland conservation, agricultural market development, and food hub management.</p> <p><b>Learn more at:</b> <a href="http://www.farmviabilityconference.com/">http://www.farmviabilityconference.com/</a></p>	<p><b>April 20 - Small Fruit Food Safety: Managing from Field to Market</b></p> <p>This workshop is a one-day in-depth focus on food safety practices, regulations, and science.</p> <p>Most presentations will be delivered from Prosser and streamed to Mount Vernon and Lynden, with opportunity for all audience members to participate in the Q and A sessions.</p> <p>Agenda and registration at: <a href="http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2908400">http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2908400</a></p>
<p><b>WSDA Local Buying Mission - Tour &amp; Business Networking Social - April 27, 2017 - Yakima Valley</b></p> <p>The event will offer farmers and local buyers the opportunity to meet casually and talk directly about products.</p> <p>This is an opportunity for specialty crop farmers to ask local buyers questions about their needs and interests, share information about your farm, start the planning for this or next year's sales and for buyers to support local Yakima producers and products.</p> <p><b>Details at:</b> <a href="https://goo.gl/yo1yzK">https://goo.gl/yo1yzK</a></p>	<p><b>April 24-28 - WSU's Cider &amp; Perry Production - A Foundation</b></p> <p>This five-day Washington State University course located in the Skagit Valley provides students with expert knowledge of cider and perry principles and practices.</p> <p>For tickets: <a href="https://goo.gl/8mMNoA">https://goo.gl/8mMNoA</a></p> <p>For more information: <a href="https://goo.gl/PEVxKZ">https://goo.gl/PEVxKZ</a></p>	<p><b>Tractor &amp; Farm Machinery Safety Training - April 14</b></p> <p>Developed by WSU Skagit County Extension is coming to King County, April 14, 2017, 9am to 5pm! Includes classroom and hands-on instruction.</p> <p>Those completing the entire course successfully will be eligible for a Certificate of Completion. Course instruction in Spanish will be available.</p> <p>Register online at:</p> <p><a href="http://TractorSafety.eventbrite.com">TractorSafety.eventbrite.com</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.”