

# Washington State Conservation Commission

## FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

MAY 2017

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



### *2017 Legislative Session—Extra Innings*

With the official closing day of the 107th legislative session occurring on April 23, lawmakers were still not in agreement on budget. Prior to Sine Die, the Governor called legislators back for a 30-day special session.

The last long session resulted in a series of special sessions when session final adjourned on June 30. For those tracking bills, when the governor calls a special session, one product of this is the re-introduction of bills, similar to year two of a biennium.

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.

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 Effect</u>	<u>Status as of April 27</u>
ESHB 1017	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Addresses the siting of schools and school facilities in rural communities	Delivered to Governor
SHB 1747	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Eliminates the requirement that property owners must give a two-year notice to withdraw land from the current use program, given it has been classified as current use for at least 10 years.	Delivered to Governor
HB 1906	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Allows the expansion of counties qualifying for the farm internship program. Adds Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis, and Walla Walla counties to the pilot project.	Delivered to Governor
SSB 5196	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Including cattle feedlots implementing best management practices within the statutory exemption for odor or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity.	Delivered to Governor
ESSB 5808	<a href="#">Bill Page</a>	Establishes that an agritourism professional is not liable for unintentional injury, loss, damage, or death resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of an agritourism activity, with certain exceptions. Requires every agritourism professional to post a specified warning notice at the site of an agritourism activity and to include the warning notice in written contracts.	Delivered to Governor

**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>

## *Sonny Perdue Sworn in as 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture*

USDA Press Release— <https://goo.gl/4E08U7>

Sonny Perdue was sworn in as the 31st U.S. Secretary of Agriculture by fellow Georgian and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court Clarence Thomas in a brief ceremony April 25 at the Supreme Court building. The U.S. Senate confirmed Secretary Perdue by a vote of 87-to-11 on April 24. After Secretary Perdue took the oath of office, he addressed employees at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) before getting to work on his first day.

For Twitter folks, USDA launched his official Twitter handle: [@SecretarySonny](https://twitter.com/SecretarySonny).



## *Let the worms do the work – Critters help dairies manage manure*

By Sonia A. Hall—<http://csanr.wsu.edu/let-the-worms-do-the-work/>

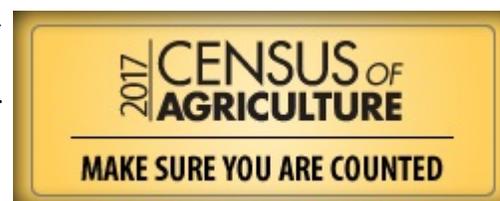
Managing manure is a big part of what goes on at the “back end” of a dairy. Doing it well is important to avoid impacts on surrounding neighbors due to odors, impacts on air and water quality, or the release of unnecessary amounts of greenhouse gases such as methane or nitrous oxides (which, by the way, are respectively 28 and 265 times more powerful as global warming “blankets” than carbon dioxide). There are multiple technologies being developed, tested, and used to improve manure management in dairies.



Read More - <http://csanr.wsu.edu/let-the-worms-do-the-work/>

## *Census Of Ag Countdown Begins For America’s Farmers And Ranchers*

America’s farmers and ranchers will soon have the opportunity to strongly represent agriculture in their communities and industry by taking part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census, to be mailed at the end of this year, is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them.



Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 Census of Agriculture report form by visiting [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) and clicking on the ‘Make Sure You Are Counted’ button through June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year (2017).

For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture and to see how census data are used, visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov) or call (800) 727-9540.

## *Northwest FCS Land Value Survey*

**Northwest Trends**—Agricultural property listings remain low, with many transactions occurring between landlords and tenants. Additionally, many areas report increased investor interest in agricultural properties. Fewer sales between 2013 and 2015 reflect supply constraints, not weak demand. Limited supply supports land values despite concerns surrounding declining commodity prices and rising interest rates.

In Washington: Average dollar-per-acre land values have been increasing since 2011. The increase in values is due to a limited supply of high-quality agriculture land and strong demand for cropland and lands with permanent plantings. **Full report available by going to:** <https://goo.gl/nwQd6N>

## *Washington State Capital Budgets—Farmland Funding*

As the legislature works towards completing their budget work for the 2017-19 biennium, the three capital proposals from the House, Senate, and Governor are now available. Farmland Preservation funding is one of the programs in the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP). See the table below for the different funding scenarios. The chambers will now need to reconcile the differing budgets.

The Senate funds WWRP at \$80 million which would obligate just under \$7 million to farmland preservation. The House too funds WWRP at \$80 million but removed several fee simple acquisition projects.

The House and Senate capital budgets can be reviewed by going to: <https://goo.gl/kTCVM9>

WWRP CATEGORY	HOUSE (\$80M)	SENATE (\$80M)	GOVERNOR (\$100M)
CRITICAL HABITAT	\$ 1,134	\$ 12,081	\$ 15,101
FARMLAND PRESERVATION	\$ 10,636	\$ 6,124	\$ 8,629
LOCAL PARKS	\$ 14,789	\$ 10,355	\$ 12,944
NATURAL AREAS	\$ 6,336	\$ 8,269	\$ 10,276
RIPARIAN PROTECTION	\$ 3,198	\$ 5,629	\$ 7,787
STATE LANDS DEVELOPMENT & RENOVATION	\$ 3,146	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
STATE LANDS RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT	\$ 3,230	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000
STATE PARKS	\$ 14,458	\$ 10,355	\$ 12,944
TRAILS	\$ 10,302	\$ 6,903	\$ 8,629
URBAN WILDLIFE	\$ 4,008	\$ 5,178	\$ 6,472
WATER ACCESS	\$ 5,467	\$ 3,903	\$ 5,629

### *Grant Opportunity: Water for Food Production Systems Challenge Area*

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is accepting applications for this Agriculture and Food Research Initiative Challenge Area, which focuses on multidisciplinary systems approaches that integrate new technologies and strategic management to solve water availability and quality challenges in food-production systems. The projects are expected to transform how abundant, safe, and nutritious food is produced, processed, distributed, and consumed within the limits of available water from traditional and non-traditional sources. Applications are invited from eligible entities to submit integrated Research, Education and/or Extension projects in two specific grant types: Coordinated Agricultural Projects (CAP) and Strengthening (Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement) CAP grants. Eligibility is linked to the project type. NIFA anticipates that approximately \$34 million will be available for new grants.

A letter of intent to apply is due May 17, 2017. Complete details at: <https://goo.gl/JMIV8e>

### *Watershed Agreement: The Truce Ending Washington's Water War*

The \$4+ billion dollar plan to help Central Washington farms and fish better survive droughts. After decades of contentious battles and lawsuits over water rights, a diverse group of farmers, irrigators, Native Americans, conservationists, and government officials set aside their self-interests to cooperate and develop one of the biggest water projects.

The documentary looks at the history of the water wars in Washington, what convinced the sides to finally come together, the projects each group will get in return, and why some believe the plan spends too much taxpayer money for too little payoff in the face of a changing climate.

Check out this terrific 1-hour documentary by going to: <https://goo.gl/0jyzag>



## ***USDA Farmers Roundtable and Executive Order***

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue recently joined President Trump for a “Farmers Roundtable” at the White House to address issues facing the American agriculture community, as the president signed an Executive Order establishing an Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity.



The roundtable discussion allowed representatives from all corners of American agriculture to raise concerns and share ideas, just as the task force begins its mission “to promote economic development and revitalization, job growth, infrastructure, innovation, and quality of life issues for rural America,” according to the president’s order.

President Trump’s Executive Order established the Interagency Task Force on Agriculture and Rural Prosperity “to ensure the informed exercise of regulatory authority that impacts agriculture and rural communities.” As Secretary of Agriculture, Perdue will serve as the task force’s chairman.

“It is in the national interest to promote American agriculture while protecting and supporting the rural communities where food, forestry, fiber, and renewable fuels are grown,” the text of the Executive Order reads. “It is further in the national interest to ensure that regulatory burdens do not unnecessarily encumber agricultural production, constrain economic growth, hamper job creation, or increase the cost of food for Americans and our customers around the world.” [Read more](#)

## ***USDA Report Highlights Changes in CSA Business Model***

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recently released a report, Community Supported Agriculture: New Models for Changing Markets, highlighting six case studies of farmers using the community supported agriculture (CSA) direct-to-consumer business model and how that model has changed since the 1980s.

Many CSAs still use the traditional business model of a farmer or network of farmers offering consumers regular (usually weekly) deliveries of locally-grown farm products, particularly fruit and vegetables, during the growing season on a subscription or membership basis. The report shows that some CSAs have modified this model to include new products, partnerships and technology to create sustainable local food businesses. [Read more](#)

The full report is available on the AMS website: <https://goo.gl/XcMfrm>

## ***Grant Opportunity: Food Safety Outreach Program***

The Food Safety Outreach Program will complement and expand the national infrastructure of the National Food Safety Training, Education, Extension, Outreach, and Technical Assistance Competitive Grants Program. The Food Safety Outreach Program will build upon that national infrastructure, with a sustained focus on delivery of customized training to members of the target audiences. Awardees will develop and implement food safety training, education, extension, outreach and technical assistance projects that address the needs of owners and operators of small to mid-sized farms, beginning farmers, socially-disadvantaged farmers, small processors, or small fresh fruit and vegetable merchant wholesalers.

Grant applications will be solicited directly from those in local communities - to include those from community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, food hubs, farm cooperatives, extension, and other local groups.

Learn more by going to: <https://nifa.usda.gov/funding-opportunity/food-safety-outreach-program>

## *In Short*

### **Future Organic Farmer Grant**

The [CCOF Foundation](#) gives grants to higher education and vocational students pursuing organic agriculture programs, to help with tuition and educational expenses. Applicants must be enrolled in educational programs in the United States that will benefit their careers in organic agriculture, including vocational training/certificate programs, junior college/two-year degree programs, and bachelor's/four-year undergraduate degrees. Applicants' financial need is taken into account for grant decisions. Up to 33 awards of \$2,500 are available.

**Application deadline is May 15, 2017.**

Details: <https://goo.gl/Zz7ab1>

### **Grazing-Contract Fact Sheet Available Online**

Pasture and Grazing Arrangements for Beef Cattle, a two-page fact sheet from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, outlines considerations for both landowners and renters when negotiating yearly or long-term grazing-land leases.

It provides an overview of four common types of arrangements, along with suggestions on how to structure agreements for the benefit of both parties.

**Learn more by going to:**

<https://goo.gl/0I4cIl>

**Download for free at:**

<https://goo.gl/9s4uaY>

### **Clif Bar Family Foundation**

Clif Bar Family Foundation Small Grants are awarded for general organizational support as well as funding for specific projects.

Small grants average approximately \$7,000 each.

**One of the priority areas is to create a robust, healthy food system.**

Applications are reviewed three times a year; the deadlines are the 1st of February, June, and October.

**Deadline June 1**

Complete details at:

<http://clifbarfamilyfoundation.org/Grants-Programs/Small-Grants>

## *In Short*

### **USDA ERS Report:**

#### **Daily Access to Local Foods for School Meals: Key Drivers**

This study is the first to focus on the prevalence of districts serving local food daily and the characteristics of those that do so more versus less frequently to identify potential targets for future technical assistance.

While previous studies have examined the prevalence of farm-to-school activities, this study uses a “daily access” target, which provides a benchmark for assessing the depth of farm-to-school programs at different stages in their development.

Read the report by going to:

<https://goo.gl/XyLIxV>

### **National Agricultural Library Small Farm Funding Resources**

This link contains information about issues to consider before starting a farming operation with links to full-text guides on how to start a farm business and develop business and marketing plans.

It also contains information about funding programs for beginning and experienced farmers, technical assistance contacts, disaster assistance, and organizations with resources.

<https://goo.gl/e854QQ>

### **USDA ERS Report:**

#### **Low-Income Areas With Low Supermarket Access Increased in Urban Areas, But Not in Rural Areas, Between 2010 and 2015**

Efforts to encourage Americans to improve their diets presume that a wide variety of healthful foods are available to everyone.

But for some areas and people, access to healthy food may be limited due to the lack of stores offering an assortment of healthy foods and financial resources.

Read more: <https://goo.gl/Hn7M5z>

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Mark Your Calendars

<p><b>CINA's Cider &amp; Perry Production Science &amp; Practice—Nov 2017</b></p> <p>Tutored by Peter Mitchell, this 'master class' for the Cider Institute of North America (CINA), builds on the "Foundation" program and aims to cover, in depth, key aspects of cider &amp; perry production.</p> <p>Nov 27 2017 8:00am—Dec 1 2017 5:00pm</p> <p>Details at: <a href="https://goo.gl/qQusMw">https://goo.gl/qQusMw</a></p>	<p><b>Managing for Resilience: Northwest Grazing Conference -May 10-11, 2017—Pendleton, Oregon</b></p> <p>Roots of Resilience presents this conference with keynote speakers Kit Pharo and Fred Provenza.</p> <p>Learn how to increase your ranch profits while increasing the resilience of your land and your ranch business.</p> <p><b>Details at:</b> <a href="https://goo.gl/dRgrkZ">https://goo.gl/dRgrkZ</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>Farm to School and USDA Pilot Project for Farmers Workshop - May 11, 1:30 pm – 3:00 pm - WSU Snohomish County Extension</b></p> <p>Understand how schools buy food, how this market may be a good fit for your farm, and what strategies can help you access this market effectively.</p> <p>Learn more and register at: <a href="https://goo.gl/jcPd12">https://goo.gl/jcPd12</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>Sixth Symposium on Advanced Legal Topics in Land Conservation June 15 - 16, 2017 San Antonio, Texas</b></p> <p>Are you an experienced land trust professional, attorney, law school faculty, appraiser or accountant looking to stay informed on conservation law? Are you interested in crafting practical legal solutions?</p> <p>View the <a href="#">full agenda</a> and <a href="#">faculty bios</a>. Registration is open — <a href="#">click here to begin</a>.</p>
<p><b>Save the Date!</b></p> <p><b>South Sound Food Summit—South Puget Sound Community College October 20 &amp; 21</b></p> <p>Join the South Sound Food System Network (SSFSN) in October for a two day summit. SSFSN is comprised of local businesses, non-profits, educational institutions and local government agencies with a mission to grow a vibrant local food economy, ensure broad access to healthy foods, and steward the environment in the South Sound.</p>	<p><b>Save the Date!</b></p> <p><b>Whatcom Food Fest &amp; Whatcom Farm Tour - September 8-10th.</b></p> <p>The Sustainable Connections Food &amp; Farming program asks you to save the date! The Whatcom Food Fest will feature an expanded farm tour that will now be two days long including a number of other County wide food events.</p> <p>Check this newsletter or Sustainable Connections this summer for more details. <a href="https://goo.gl/IGtekQ">https://goo.gl/IGtekQ</a></p>	<p><b>SARE: Our Farms, Our Future Conference—April 2018</b></p> <p>USDA Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program (SARE) and NCAT/ATTRA will host the Our Farms, Our Future conference April 3-5, 2018, in St. Louis, Missouri.</p> <p>Every decade, SARE hosts a conference to look at the progress of sustainability in agriculture and to understand the trajectory for the future.</p> <p>Details at: <a href="https://goo.gl/PSfQi5">https://goo.gl/PSfQi5</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.”