

Good Afternoon All,

Yesterday, June 11, 2013 marked the last day of the 2013 First Special Legislative Session. Because the Legislature didn't approve a 2013-15 operating budget, a 2013-15 capital budget, and bills necessary to implement those budgets, Governor Inslee has convened the Legislature in a Second Special Session beginning today, June 12, 2013 to tackle work that remains to be done. This special session can last up to thirty days long or it can be shorter, depending on business needs.

We anticipate an increase in budget activity over the next 2.5 weeks in response to the State entering a new fiscal biennium on July 1, 2013. Although both the House and Senate proposed and passed respective operating budgets during the first special session, minimal changes were made from what we previously reported in May. Below is a summary of the proposed budgets as they relate to WSDA.

As always, the Policy Team truly appreciates your continued assistance and support as we move into the Second Special Session. We will keep you informed as budget development progresses and we learn more over the coming weeks. Any questions, please feel free to contact Mark Streuli, Joe Bippert, Stacy Laney, or myself.

Thanks much!

Lynn

**SENATE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET:** [HTTP://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP](http://LEAP.LEG.WA.GOV/LEAP/DEFAULT.ASP)

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- Projects a total **Operating Budget** of \$152 million.
- **Administrative reductions:** (-\$916,000) Reduces general fund-state to reflect administrative efficiencies and other actions that agencies will take to lower costs.
- **Domestic Marketing:** (+\$250,000) Adds funding to support the Farm-to-School and the Small Farms and Direct Marketing programs (General Fund-State).
- **Animal Disease Traceability:** (+\$275,000) Adds funding for the implementation of the animal disease traceability program (Agricultural Local Fund-Non Appropriated).
- **Agricultural Fairs:** Maintains state funding for county, area, and youth fairs at \$4 million for the biennium (Fair Account-Non Appropriated).
- **Employee compensation:** Restores the three percent pay reduction for all state employees earning more than \$2,500 per month and provides for a new "Step M" for classified employees who have been at their top step for at least six years (General Fund-State and other).

The proposed **Senate Capital Budget** includes \$881,000 to support animal disease traceability activities.

- Projects a total **Operating Budget** of \$154 million.
- **Agricultural Fairs:** Maintains state funding for county, area, and youth fairs at \$4 million for the biennium (Fair Account-Non Appropriated).
- **Domestic Marketing:** (+\$250,000) Adds funding to support the Farm-to-School and the Small Farms and Direct Marketing programs (General Fund-State).
- **Employee compensation:** Restores the three percent pay reduction for all state employees earning more than \$2,500 per month and provides for a new “Step M” for classified employees who have been at their top step for at least six years (General Fund-State and other).

The proposed **House Capital Budget** includes \$1 million for health and safety projects at county fairs and \$866,000 to support animal disease traceability activities.

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