

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, organic farms and their crops are an important segment of Washington State's agricultural industry, including the production of certified organic tree fruit, berries, vegetables, dairy products, livestock, forage, and additional commodities; and

WHEREAS, sales of organic products in the United States grew to \$43.3 billion in 2015, up 11 percent from 2014's record level of \$39 billion; and

WHEREAS, Washington produces more than 90 percent of all organic apples in the nation; and is a leading producer of organic pears, cherries, blueberries, juice grapes, sweet corn, green peas, snap beans, and hops; and

WHEREAS, 1,160 operations in Washington are certified organic by the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), including handlers and growers, the latter group stewarding over 93,000 acres of certified organic farm land; and

WHEREAS, the WSDA created one of the nation's first organic programs to regulate and promote organic production in the interest of growers, consumers, and the organic industry; and

WHEREAS, Washington State is proud to highlight and support the benefits of local organic agriculture to our economy, communities, and family farmers; and

WHEREAS, Washington Organic Week (WOW!) has been created to bring together organic growers and handlers, organic agriculture advocates, and consumers in a celebration of this important industry;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 12-18, 2016 as

Washington Organic Week

and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 2nd day of September, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee

Handwritten signature of Governor Jay Inslee in blue ink.

