

AGRICULTURE - A Cornerstone of Washington's Economy



Washington agriculture

- Washington's \$49 billion food and agriculture industry represents **13% of the state's economy**.
 - Agriculture and food industries **employ 160,000**, including 45,000 in the food processing industry.
 - Washington's **37,249 farms and ranches produced crops and livestock valued at \$9.89 billion** in 2012, a 6 percent gain from 2011.
 - **Food and beverage processing industry sales surpass \$17 billion**, led by King County with \$6.8 billion in food processing industry gross sales and 10,000 jobs. Six of the top 10 counties involved with food processing are located in Western Washington.
 - Major centers of agricultural production are on both sides of the Cascades—Columbia Basin, Yakima Valley, Northwest Washington. **Every region in state has agricultural output.**
 - Some **300 commodities** are produced commercially.
- The top six commodities are apples, milk, wheat, potatoes, hay and cattle and calves. **Washington growers produced more than 70% of the U.S. supply of apples** in 2012. Washington currently **leads the country in production of 10 commodities**. In addition to apples, the list includes sweet cherries, pears, red raspberries, hops and green peas grown for processing.
 - Washington is the **second largest producer of premium wines in the U.S.** sold through 800 licensed wineries.
 - About **30% of state agricultural commodities are exported**.
 - More than **\$16.5 billion in food and agricultural products were exported through Washington ports** in 2012, the third largest total in the U.S. The figure includes grains and agricultural products from other states.
 - Leading export destinations for Washington products include Japan, Canada, Southeast Asia, China and Hong Kong, Korea, Taiwan and Mexico.



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Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)

*Serving Washington agriculture
and the public since 1913*

WSDA's broad activities:

- Protect and reduce the risk to public health by assuring the safety of the state's food supply.
- Ensure the safe and legal distribution, use, and disposal of pesticides and fertilizers.
- Protect Washington's natural resources, agriculture industry, and the public from selected plant and animal pests and diseases.
- Facilitate the movement of Washington agricultural products in domestic and international markets.
- Provide funding for 450 food banks, shelters and meal providers.
- The 2013-15 Biennial Budget provides a WSDA operating budget of \$154 million. \$30 million comes from the state General Fund. Eighty-percent comes from other state and federal sources and fees-for-service paid by WSDA customers.

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