



AGRICULTURE—A CORNERSTONE OF WASHINGTON'S ECONOMY

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.

Washington State Department of Agriculture

(360) 902-1800 or TTY: 800-833-6388

1111 Washington Street SE – 2nd Floor
PO Box 121
Olympia, WA 98504-2560

Connect with us online at www.agr.wa.gov

Visit our social media sites below to learn more.



Subscribe to WSDA publications at www.agr.wa.gov/News

Revised January 2014

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 40,000 in the food processing industry.
- Washington's 39,500 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 \$15 billion, led by King County with \$6.4 billion in food processing industry gross sales and 12,780 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, NW Washington. Every region in state has agricultural output.
- Some 300 commodities are produced commercially. The top six are apples, wheat, milk, 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.