



Washington State Department of Agriculture

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For immediate release: May 27, 2014 (14-14)

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WSDA joins with Northwest Farmers to support the hungry

OLYMPIA – For the second year in a row, Washington and Oregon will compete to feed the hungry.

The [Washington State Department of Agriculture](#) (WSDA) and the [Oregon Department of Agriculture](#) (ODA) will work throughout June to raise food for the annual Northwest Farmers Fighting Hunger food drive.

June is when food banks across our state see increased need, in part because families lose access to free or reduced cost school lunches for children. To help, Northwest Dairy Farmers and Fred Meyer stores have partnered on the Northwest Farmers Fighting Hunger campaign to raise food and donations for food assistance programs in Washington and Oregon.

On June 4, the campaign will kick off with [an event](#) at the State Capitol Campus in Olympia, with donations collected benefitting the Thurston County Food Bank. WSDA Director Bud Hover and members of WSDA's [Food Assistance Program](#) will attend, along with representatives from the Washington Food Coalition and several agriculture commissions.

As part of the campaign, Director Hover and ODA Director Katy Coba will compete to see which state can generate the greatest participation in the food drive. Last year, 7,751 pounds of food were raised in Washington while 6,500 pounds were collected in Oregon. As a result, WSDA has held the coveted Director's Trophy since last year.

Through June, collection bins will be available at Fred Meyer stores in both states to accept donations of canned or non-perishable food and other items, like baby diapers. In Eastern Washington, the donated food and money collected during the month will benefit Second Harvest, while in Western Washington, Food Lifeline will receive the donations. In Oregon, the donations will go to the Oregon Food bank.

WSDA's Food Assistance Program distributes food and money to food banks, pantries, meal programs, and tribes throughout the state. In Washington, one in five residents visited a food bank last year that received support through the WSDA program.

Visit www.nwfarmersfightinghunger.com to donate or learn more about the campaign.

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