

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2014

[HTTP://OFP.SCC.WA.GOV/](http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/)

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### *Washington state farm planning workbook now available*

A new publication from the Office of Farmland Preservation is now available online and in print. Check it out online at <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/succession-planning/>. If you would like a hardcopy, please contact us at [ofp@scc.wa.gov](mailto:ofp@scc.wa.gov) with mailing information or 360-407-6200.

Funding for this edition was provided by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. While this workbook focuses on our state's specialty crop growers, it is inclusive of all Washington farm families as they plan the future of their farm.

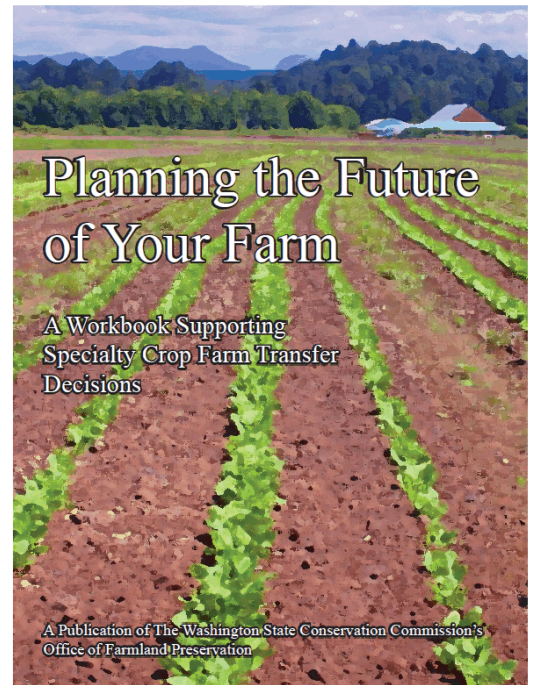
**Planning the Future of Your Farm** is a workbook for families who want to keep their farmland in production and/or "in the family" as it passes to the next generation. The workbook helps address the one question that stands out everywhere, persistent and perplexing: Who will farm the land?

**Planning the Future of Your Farm** helps those who already know the answer, and can be used as a guide through the many challenges. The workbook also addresses this question for landowners willing to search for that answer.

The **Planning the Future of Your Farm** workbook is laid out in four sections, each with narratives supported by worksheets. The workbook is primarily for use by specialty crop farm families (i.e., families that actively farm or that simply own a specialty crop farm). Families can use it themselves or under the guidance of a professional adviser. The workbook is also designed to support curricula in farm transfer workshops for farmers and landowners. Each section corresponds to a suggested planning process.

**After you have reviewed, please take a moment to complete a short survey either online or hardcopy (included in hardcopy workbook) providing feedback and input as we work to improve the tools available for Washington farm and ranchers. The online survey is available at <http://goo.gl/QUbCkN>**

Landowner workshops will be held in Spring of 2015.



### *Workshop: Product Development for Value-Added Prepared Foods*

Northwest Ag Business Center is offering a value added workshop geared to small scale producers of preserves, sauces, dressings and vinegars, snacks, baked goods and other value-added products. This workshop will take place **November 24 from 9am - 4pm in Richland, WA**. It will provide the region's small scale prepared food producers with up-to-date information and technical knowledge of the food product development process for the specialty food industry and how to bring such products to market. Students will be walked through the various steps from concept development to the market. There will be an emphasis on the factors to be considered for scaling up the product from the kitchen to commercial production. Numerous examples will be provided to illustrate the steps and end goal. Along with the aspects of product development, the course will cover product cost calculations, with real-world business examples.

Register online at the NABC website (see [Transitioning to Value Added Products Courses](#) under Classes & Workshops) or contact the NABC office: 360-336-3727 | [info@agbizcenter.org](mailto:info@agbizcenter.org)

Full details at: <http://goo.gl/MncNRb> or check out the flyer here: <http://goo.gl/rDh4MO>

**Stay in contact and sign up for the OFP-Newsletter!**

Email frequency is once a month

Sign up on the web at: <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov>

## *China Lifts Suspension on Washington State Apples*

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack recently announced that China is lifting its suspension of red and golden delicious apple imports from Washington State. The Chinese market for Washington apples was valued at \$6.5 million in calendar year 2011.

"USDA employees worked closely with the apple industry and China over a long period of time to achieve this market access," said Secretary Tom Vilsack. "We continue cultivating a strong relationship with China and paving the way for future bilateral trading opportunities."

In 2012, China's General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) suspended access for Washington red and golden delicious apples due to the repeated interception of three apple pests AQSIQ considers significant: speck rot, bull's-eye rot, and Sphaeropsis rot. To lift this suspension, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) worked with the U.S. apple industry to develop additional safeguarding measures that address China's concerns about these pests. Some of these new measures include cold storage of apples and visual inspection of apples prior to shipping to ensure there is no evidence of disease. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service also worked closely with industry stakeholders to ensure the successful outcome.

This market access success comes as the United States and China continue to work to normalize trade in apples. Ongoing efforts include negotiating access for all U.S. apples to the Chinese market, as well as the safe U.S. importation of apples grown in China.



## *Food Policy: Food System Database Released*

The School of Architecture and Planning at the University at Buffalo has released a new Growing Food Connections Policy Database that will assist local governments as they work to broaden access to healthy food and help sustain local farms and food producers. The online database features more than 100 innovative policies that address issues including public investment in food systems, farmland protection, local food procurement, and food policy council resolutions.



The database is a searchable collection of local public policies that explicitly support community food systems. This database provides policymakers, government staff, and others interested in food policy with concrete examples of local public policies that have been adopted to address a range of food systems issues: rural and urban food production, farmland protection, transfer of development rights, food aggregation and distribution infrastructure, local food purchasing and procurement, healthy food access, food policy councils, food policy coordination, food system metrics, tax reductions and exemptions for food infrastructure, and much more. **Learn more by going to:** <http://growingfoodconnections.org/tools-resources/policy-database/>

## *Environmental Markets: New reports Support Trading*

The Willamette Partnership recently released two new reports on environmental markets and water quality trading.

Report 1: **Verification in Markets for Water Quality and Habitat** - [download](#)

This report explores key decision points in designing systems to verify environmental credits, offering context on how verification works and a robust discussion of tradeoffs that support transparency and accountability, manage transaction costs, and build opportunities to learn and improve programs quickly.

Report 2: **Building a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) to Better Support Water Quality Trading** - [download](#)

This report provides information on how TMDLs can provide important information to agency staff and other stakeholders on issues such as nonpoint source baselines, credit type and seasonality, trading areas, and monitoring for program effectiveness.

Both reports were funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, [Office of Environmental Markets](#).

## In Short

### USDA Microloan Program limit raised to \$50,000

USDA has announced that it is raising the borrowing limit for its microloan program from \$35,000 to \$50,000; simplifying the lending processes; updating required "farming experience" to include other valuable experiences; and expanding eligible business entities. The changes become effective November 7, 2014. **Details here:** <http://goo.gl/YPP9Vj>

### Save the Date! Focus on Farming is November 20, 2014, Monroe, WA

The 11th annual Focus on Farming conference, "Back to the Farm" at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe, WA. The conference will feature keynote speakers, industry trade show, networking opportunities and 24 great workshop classes in six industry tracks.

[View more details](#) and register today. [Online registration is now available.](#)

### Increasing local meat in school: Farm to School Fact Sheet

The USDA Farm to School Program has issued a new, two-page fact sheet, [Local Meat in Schools: Increasing Opportunities for Small and Mid-Sized Livestock Ranchers and Fishermen](#). The fact sheet presents examples, tips, and information for putting local meat on school menus. **Check out the fact sheet (PDF):** <http://goo.gl/ZSYQ0o>

## Ag and Food Law Consortium Formed, Surveying Stakeholders

A group of universities is partnering to form a new Agricultural and Food Law Consortium that will research regional and national agricultural law issues. The consortium is led by the National Agricultural Law Center. The consortium is collecting information about stakeholders' needs through an [online survey](#) that will help define the long-term research and information agenda.

The consortium will expand the reach of objective agricultural and food law research and information to the nation's agricultural community of producers, state and federal policymakers, attorneys, cooperative extension professionals, and others at the state, regional and national levels.

The center covers more than 50 areas of agricultural and food law including biotechnology, the farm bill, states' right-to-farm laws, environmental law, animal well-being issues and many others.

The scope of the consortium includes land-based food, fiber, and energy production systems, as well as seafood and marine-based production via aquaculture.

**Details available by going to:** <http://nationalaglawcenter.org/consortium/>

The Consortium is currently conducting a short, anonymous survey to help define upcoming agricultural and food law research and information activities. **To take the survey click [here](#).**

Please the survey link (<http://tinyurl.com/m4t34df>) with others throughout the nation's agricultural community.

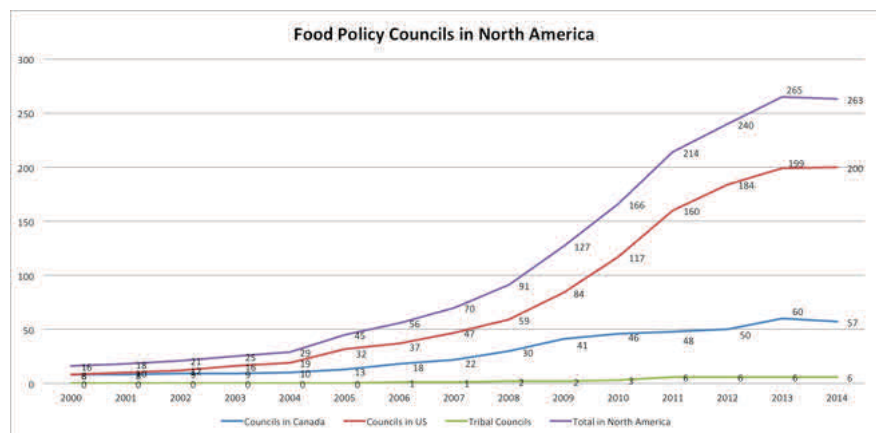


## Updated National Food Policy Council Directory

During the summer of 2014, the Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future completed its annual survey of food policy councils across North America. The CLF began conducting the survey in 2013 to update information that was last gathered by the Community Food Security Coalition in 2012. The information includes any changes in contact information, goals, and governance structures.

**More details here:** <http://goo.gl/YJ98ag>

**View the directory here:** [Online Directory](#)



## *In Short*

### **WA State In-stream Flows Setting: New video from Department of Ecology**

An in-stream flow is a water right for the stream and the resources that depend on it. It has a priority date like any other water right. The purpose of this video is to provide a public education tool on the work Ecology is doing to protect stream flows for the benefit of people, farms and fish.

**View the 5 minute video at:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7IqnjA1b4Lo>

### **Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network Conducting Survey on Meat Processing Toolkit Needs**

The Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network (NMPAN, [nichemeatprocessing.org](http://nichemeatprocessing.org)) is developing a “Meat Processing 101” toolkit to provide agricultural professionals with information about small-scale meat processing and local meat value chains. The goal is to help better serve livestock producers and others in this region who are interested in small-scale meat processing.

**Take the short survey here:**

<http://goo.gl/xp4yZ0>

### **Case Study Explores Development of Local Frozen Produce**

Common Market, a distributor of local-farm food in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, launched its line of local, source-identified frozen produce in October 2013. Common Market has published a case study that traces the exploratory process, product trials, and relationship building that ultimately led to its first branded, source-identified, local frozen product.

The [26-page publication](#) is available online in PDF.

<http://goo.gl/e86LII>

## *USDA Agriculture Census Reports on Organic Farm Sector*

Certified organic agriculture producers in the United States sell directly to consumers, produce on-farm renewable energy, and are younger, beginning, farmers more often than conventional producers, according to new 2012 Census of Agriculture data released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Conducted only once every five years, the agriculture census presents a detailed look at the U.S. organic farm sector including production practices, economics and demographics.

In 2012, there were 767 farms reporting organic sales with a market value of just over \$1 billion. The vast majority of these farms were family farms. Over 100 farms reported marketing organic products through Community Supported Agriculture of the reported 388 statewide.

**To see just Washington State data, go to:** <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/?p=5441>

For the full report and more information, go to: [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Newsroom/2014/09\\_30\\_2014.php](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Newsroom/2014/09_30_2014.php)

## *2013 Washington State Assessor Statistics Released*

From [WA Department of Revenue 2014 Property Tax Review - Volume 15, Issue 3](#)

A compilation of survey data related to the operation of assessors’ offices titled, A Comparison of County Assessor Statistics for 2013 (Comparison Report) has recently been released. The report provides property tax administrators with comparative statistics to assist in the analysis and evaluation of their assessment operations and the adequacy of assessment resources. The Comparison Report is designed to serve as a starting point for the administrator or decision-maker.

The Comparison Report statistics are based on locally assessed taxable parcels. Use of taxable parcels reflect much of the assessor’s workload, however it should be noted that additional listed nontaxable/exempt and state assessed parcels also require use of county resources.

Parcels with new construction increased from 58,477 parcels in 2012 to 63,264. New property placed on assessment rolls in 2013 increased approximately 37 percent from \$6,714,269,728 in 2012 to \$9,197,688,622.

The current issue and previous issues through 1999 are available through the Department of Revenue’s website at this link:

[http://dor.wa.gov/content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/stats\\_proptaxstats\\_Assessor.aspx](http://dor.wa.gov/content/AboutUs/StatisticsAndReports/stats_proptaxstats_Assessor.aspx)

## *WA Awarded \$4.2m in Specialty Crop Funding*

The Washington State Department of Agriculture was recently notified today that the U.S. Department of Agriculture approved the state's application for \$4.2 million in grant funding for projects that will support the state's fruit, vegetable and horticulture growers.



This year's projects include those that address barriers to export Washington's specialty crops, expand institutional markets for specialty crops, resolve critical pest and disease issues, and research to improve honey bee pollination. Several contracts address resource issues including irrigation water.

Visit [www.agr.wa.gov/Grants/SCBGP](http://www.agr.wa.gov/Grants/SCBGP) to see a list of projects.

WSDA has received more than \$19 million since 2008 for projects supported by the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program. The program is authorized under the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill).

## *Job Opening: American Farmland Trust Pacific NW Region Director*

[American Farmland Trust](#) is seeking qualified candidates for director of their Pacific Northwest Region office. The Pacific Northwest Director is responsible for representing the organization in advancing its mission in the Pacific Northwest Region, which includes the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho, and serves under the direction of the Vice President, Programs. Pacific Northwest office currently is in Seattle, WA.



For details on the position and how to apply, go to: <http://goo.gl/R5xpK8>

## *Funding: Food Insecurity Nutrition Incentive Program*

USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture is making up to \$31.5 million available to help participants in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program more easily afford healthy foods like fruits and vegetables.



**Applications are requested in the following categories:**

- (1) FINI pilot projects (awards not to exceed \$100,000 over one year);
- (2) Multi-year, community-based FINI projects (awards not to exceed \$500,000 over no more than four years);
- (3) Multi-year, FINI large-scale projects (awards of \$500,000 or more over no more than four years).

Applications are due December 15, 2014. Details at: <http://goo.gl/GCIgDe>

## *Pierce County Farm Forum - Puyallup WA*

**Friday, February 27, 2015 8:30 AM-3:00 PM, \$10 suggested donation, buffet lunch included**

Register today for an engaging and dynamic discussion as local farmers and agribusiness representatives share their strategies and experiences for forging new markets. This is an exciting opportunity to interact with your peers, network, and broaden the conversation on how to keep farmers farming, by capturing the growing trend of agritourism and direct market sales. Special features include a Farm-to-Purchaser networking session (meet one on one with food purchasers) and Farm-to-Technical networking session, with experts specializing in financing, permits, conservation, and health regulations on hand to answer your agribusiness questions.

Presented by Pierce County Agriculture Program, in partnership with Cascade Harvest Coalition, Pierce Conservation District, Tacoma Pierce County Health Department and WSU Extension. Contact [farminfo@co.pierce.wa.us](mailto:farminfo@co.pierce.wa.us) or call 253-798-3724. [Register here.](#)

# WASHINGTON STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

## Funding Opportunity:

### Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Grants

Grants for business improvement projects are available through the Northwest Trade Adjustment Assistance Center, a nonprofit that has been working with agricultural businesses and manufacturers for over 30 years.

Visit their website, [www.nwtaac.org](http://www.nwtaac.org), to meet some of the businesses that have taken advantage of this grant funding. Or call NWTAAAC to see if your entity is eligible, 1-800-667-8087.

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Applications are due December 15, 2014.

## In the News:

### National Geographic - American Farmers are Growing Old, with Spiraling costs keeping out young

A recent national geographic feature story examines old and new farmer demographics in America.

Check it out online at National Geographic by going to:

<http://goo.gl/8zJpkC>

## Mark Your Calendars

### Washington Small Fruit Conference Lynden Ag Show 2014

Thursday, December 04, 2014 7:00 AM  
- Friday, December 05, 2014 3:30 PM

Equine Events Center - NW Washington Fair - 1775 Front Street - Lynden, Washington 98264

#### Registration details:

<http://goo.gl/ZpmdUW>

### WA State Farmers Market Association Annual Conference

Feb 6-8 Olympia WA.

Join over 200 farmers market organizers, farmers and market supporters in Olympia for three days of workshops and special events.

Registration begins in November

[www.wafarmersmarkets.com/conference](http://www.wafarmersmarkets.com/conference)

### February 27/28 San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit Lopez Island, WA

Bringing together farmers, farm advocates, local and national experts, and keynote speakers for two days of information, inspiration and networking.

Contact [summit@sjcarc.org](mailto:summit@sjcarc.org) or go to <http://sjcarc.org/> for more information

### Cascadia Grains Conference January 10, Olympia WA

Join farmers, processors and end-users, investors, brokers and government agencies to support rebuilding a grain economy west of the Cascade Mountains in Washington through three value-added enterprises – brewing and distilling, baking and other food uses and animal feed. <http://goo.gl/XB3UJI>

### Financial Planning for Farmers and Fishermen - Nov 5 - Chimacum, WA

Part of the WSU Extension's Cultivating Success Agricultural Entrepreneurship program and co-sponsored with WA Sea Grant, farmers and fishermen are invited to learn about financing your farm or fishing business.

More information and registration info here. <http://goo.gl/Un8rOg>

### Oregon Small Farms Conference - February 28, 2015

This daylong event is geared toward farmers, agriculture professionals, food policy advocates, students and managers of farmers markets. Twenty-four sessions will be offered on a variety of topics relevant to the Oregon small farmers. This year there will be a session track in Spanish. Details [here](#)

“OUR MISSION IS TO PROMOTE THE VITALITY OF FARMING, FARMERS, AND RANCHERS BY ENSURING THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE PRODUCTIVE AGRICULTURAL LANDS IN WASHINGTON STATE. WE WILL ACHIEVE THIS THROUGH POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE GOVERNOR, THE LEGISLATURE, THE OFFICE OF FARMLAND PRESERVATION AND OTHERS AND BY ENLISTING PUBLIC SUPPORT. PROGRAMS WILL BE VOLUNTARY, RECOGNIZE LOCAL PRIORITIES, AND PROVIDE FOR ECONOMIC INCENTIVES.”