



House Agriculture and Natural Resource Work Session

*WSDA and WSU
September 2025*

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Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Role of WSDA

- Assure the quality (sanitary and phytosanitary inspections), safety (Food Safety Modernization Act), and availability (food assistance programs) of the food supply.
- Manage the registration, distribution, use, and disposal of pesticides and fertilizers.
- Protect the state's natural resources by preventing and controlling plant and animal diseases.
- Support marketing the state's agricultural products at the local, national, and international level.



About Washington Farms

- **32,076** – total number of farms (2022). Most farms are family owned.
 - **300+** - variety of crops grown in Washington.
 - **\$12.06 billion** – market value of crops and livestock only (2023).
- **\$1.99 billion** – value of apples, state's top crop
 - **89%** - percent of Washington farms considered small farms
 - 82% - less than 180 acres
 - 67% - less than 50 acres



Top 10 Commodities in Washington*

(2023)



1 APPLES

\$1.991 billion



2 CATTLE

\$1.332 billion



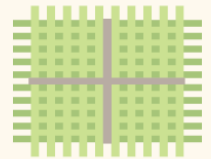
3 MILK

\$1.331 billion



4 POTATOES

\$1.160 billion



5 HAY

\$861.7 million



6 WHEAT

\$672.2 million



7 EGGS

\$405.9 million



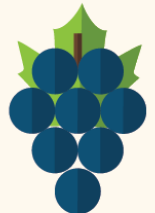
8 HOPS

\$405.8 million



9 ONIONS

\$383.7 million



10 GRAPES

\$309.3 million

Source: USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, unless otherwise noted. *USDA statistics exclude cannabis.

Washington's Top Export Destinations & Export Products (2024)



Top Export Destinations

Canada	\$1.3 billion
Japan	\$1.1 billion
Mexico	\$908.2 million
China	\$692.6 million
South Korea	\$508.2 million

Top Export Products

Frozen French Fries	\$1.1 billion
Fish and Seafood	\$939.9 billion
Apples	\$845.2 million
Wheat	\$651.9 million
Dairy	\$563 million

Factors Affecting Viability of Washington Agriculture

Major pressures on the agricultural industry

- Increasing input costs, especially labor
- Low commodity/crop prices
- Impact of trade barriers/lack of emphasis on market growth
- Inadequate funding for technical support and research
- Regulatory burdens
- Weather/climate impacts
- Water scarcity/drought
- Pest and disease pressures



Photo credit: Dr. Andrea Bixby Brosi, WSU

Ag Viability: A Growing Challenge

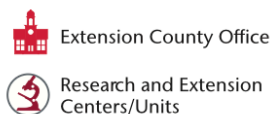
Overview:

- Policies shaped by urban population and legislators
- Disconnect between urban priorities and rural/ag realities
- Labor, water, and environmental policies often hit rural areas hardest

Implications for Ag:

- Risk of losing support for critical infrastructure, transportation, and research funding.
- Need for bridging initiatives like legislative ag tours, urban-rural listening sessions, or ag education in schools to close the understanding gap





-  Washington State University
Spokane
-  Washington State University
Vancouver

-  Washington State University Pullman
-  Washington State University West/Seattle
-  Washington State University Tri-Cities

-  Washington State University
Everett
-  Extension Energy Program
-  Extension Tribal Office
-  Small Business Development
Centers/Partnerships