



WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Report to the Legislature

Prepared by the Following Washington State Agencies:

Washington State Department of Agriculture
Washington State Conservation Commission

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Table of Acronyms

Acronym	Definition
BIPOC	Black, Indigenous and People of Color
CD	Conservation Districts
CSA	Community Supported Agriculture
DOH	Washington State Department of Health
DSHS	Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
EBT	Electronic Benefit Transfer
FMNP	Farmers Market Nutrition Programs
OFF	Office of Farmland Preservation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
SCC	Washington State Conservation Commission
SNAP	Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
WIC	Women, Infants, and Children
WSDA	Washington State Department of Agriculture
WSHFC	Washington State Housing and Finance Commission
WSU	Washington State University



Executive Summary

The Washington State Food Policy Forum (Forum) has been convening since 2016 to reflect on key challenges facing our state's food system. In 2019, the Forum came to consensus on 50+ recommendations for improving the food system. The pandemic revealed or amplified food system vulnerabilities in four key issue areas, all of which have been topics of discussion at the Forum. Drawing from the 2019 consensus recommendations, in 2020 the Forum produced a second report and workplan which have a particular focus on the impacts and opportunities presented by COVID-19. For this third report, the Forum reflected on its prior consensus recommendations to produce a short list of recommendations that are particularly timely and relevant for action during the 2022 legislative session. The Forum then utilized its equity filter tool to explore ways the recommendations might be implemented for more equitable results; equity considerations for design and implementation of the recommendations are captured in this report.

The Forum recommends the following actions to improve Washington's food system for the Legislature's consideration:

- A. Support technical assistance providers (e.g., local CDs, WSU, SCC, WSDA, etc.) using state or federal dollars to work with producers to tackle a variety of issues related to pivoting from one market to another.
- B. Provide \$100 million in funding to existing WSCC programs for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements or development rights to protect farmland for continued production and secure multi-benefit agricultural lands owned by producers most impacted by COVID-19
- C. Ensure public schools have adequate funding and flexibility to purchase needed food products, and to purchase from local farms. Available Washington-grown food might be at a higher price point than

institutional buyers can afford. Use federal and state dollars to help make Washington-grown purchases by schools and food banks.

- D. Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs, such as: Explore data share agreements and IT investments and how systems can be better connected to support eligibility outreach and enrollment for WIC and SNAP and free/reduced priced school meals and child nutrition to ensure seamless enrollment for participants who are eligible for both more than one programs, and to make WIC participation easier (e.g., online scheduling for appointments, online classes, etc.).
- E. Support conservation programs and resources that provide direct financial assistance to farmers to implement best management practices that address impacts of climate change and also provide employment opportunities and economic development. Programs such as the Sustainable Farm and Fields and Soil Health Initiative have the potential to be examined for this purpose. Provide funds and technical assistance for farmers to implement cover crops, no till, organic amendments, etc. This allows farmers to have funding – not tied to loans – that directly supports farm viability and production and addresses conservation and climate change goals.
- F. Develop a strategy and set of policies to ensure water availability for Western Washington agriculture. For those basins that do not already have a basin office, consider an Office for Western Washington Basins to coordinate efforts.

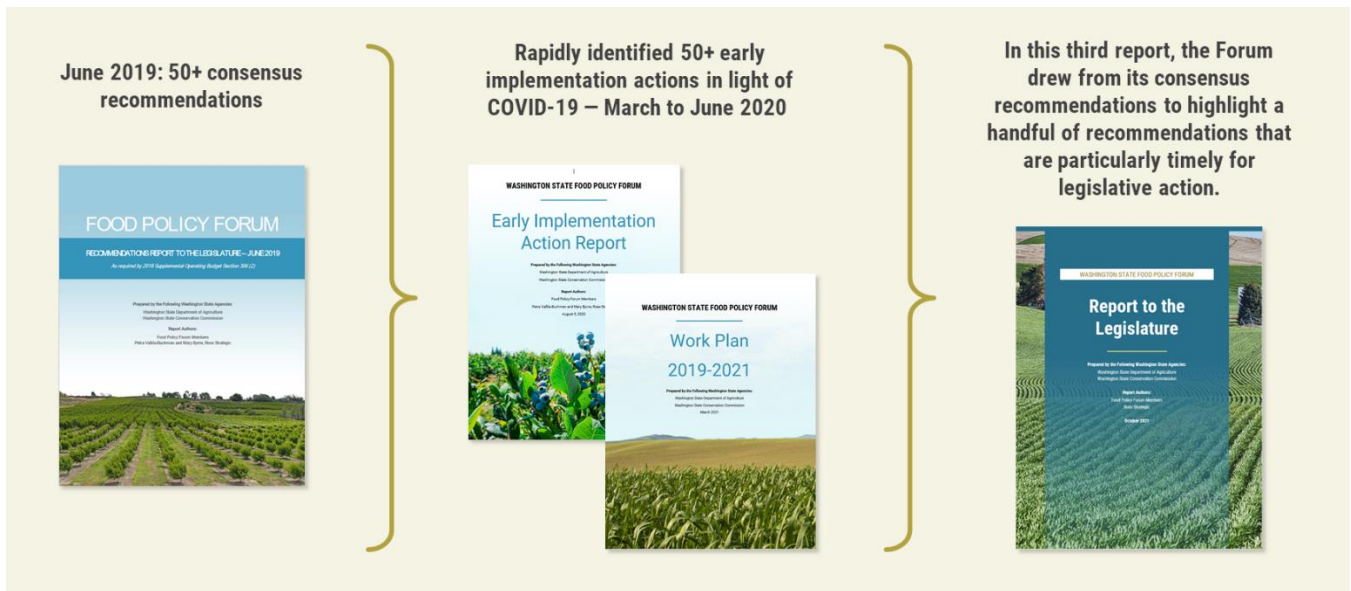


Introduction

The Washington State Food Policy Forum (Forum) draws from the experience and perspectives of its members, who range across the political spectrum and come from almost all sectors of the food system, to determine key areas of food system vulnerability and articulate and communicate recommendations to improve the system. Through two consensus reports in [2019](#) and [2020](#), the Forum put forward myriad recommendations that together aim to achieve wins-wins for multiple scales of agricultural and sectors of the food system, advance food security for Washingtonians, and promote agricultural and food business viability. In this third report, the Forum drew from its consensus recommendations to highlight a handful of recommendations that are particularly timely for legislative action. See diagram below.

Alongside the recommendations in this report are highlights of the successes the Forum's ideas have gained over the last couple of years. The successes demonstrate the effectiveness of the consensus decision making process and rapid action taken by stakeholders, in particular the Legislature, to meet the needs of Washington's food system.

Now established in statute, the Forum looks forward to determining the most effective actions it can take to support the food systems solutions it envisions.



Equity

The pandemic continues to reveal or amplify the priority issue areas the Forum first identified in its 2019 report. Action on the recommendations in this third report not only meets the moment of the pandemic but also contributes to longer-term resilience of the food system and provides opportunities to advance equity.

In the Spring of 2021, the Forum created an equity filter to help guide the Forum’s work to develop and take action on recommendations to improve the food system for all people in Washington. The intention of using the filter is to understand how the Forum’s actions and recommendations have different impacts on the diversity of geographic and demographic communities in Washington and upon different types of farms and food businesses.

With this third report, the Forum put its equity filter into practice to identify how actions and recommendations of the Forum impact equitable outcomes for Washingtonians. Forum members applied the filter by answering the seven questions in the filter for each of the recommendations (see text box below). The answers to the equity filter questions were then distilled into considerations for inclusion in this report. Following each recommendation is a list of equity considerations for design and implementation of the recommendation.

The Forum's Equity Filter

1. What is the proposal under consideration?
2. What are the desired results and outcomes?
3. Who is likely to benefit from, who is likely to be burdened by, and who might be left out of this proposal? Consider racial, ethnic, or economic disparity. To get started, consider the list of populations on slide 9 in this [State Board of Health presentation](#).
4. How and to what extent might the proposal reduce inequities experienced by the populations identified in question #3?
5. What perspectives and data does the Forum need to consider to ensure the proposed action will advance equity?
6. What unintended consequences may result from this proposal that could affect equity? Consider to what extent the proposal advantages people and/or groups who have traditionally benefited from privilege.
7. What feedback from this exercise about opportunities to advance equity should be shared with those who will be implementing the proposed action?

About the Food Policy Forum

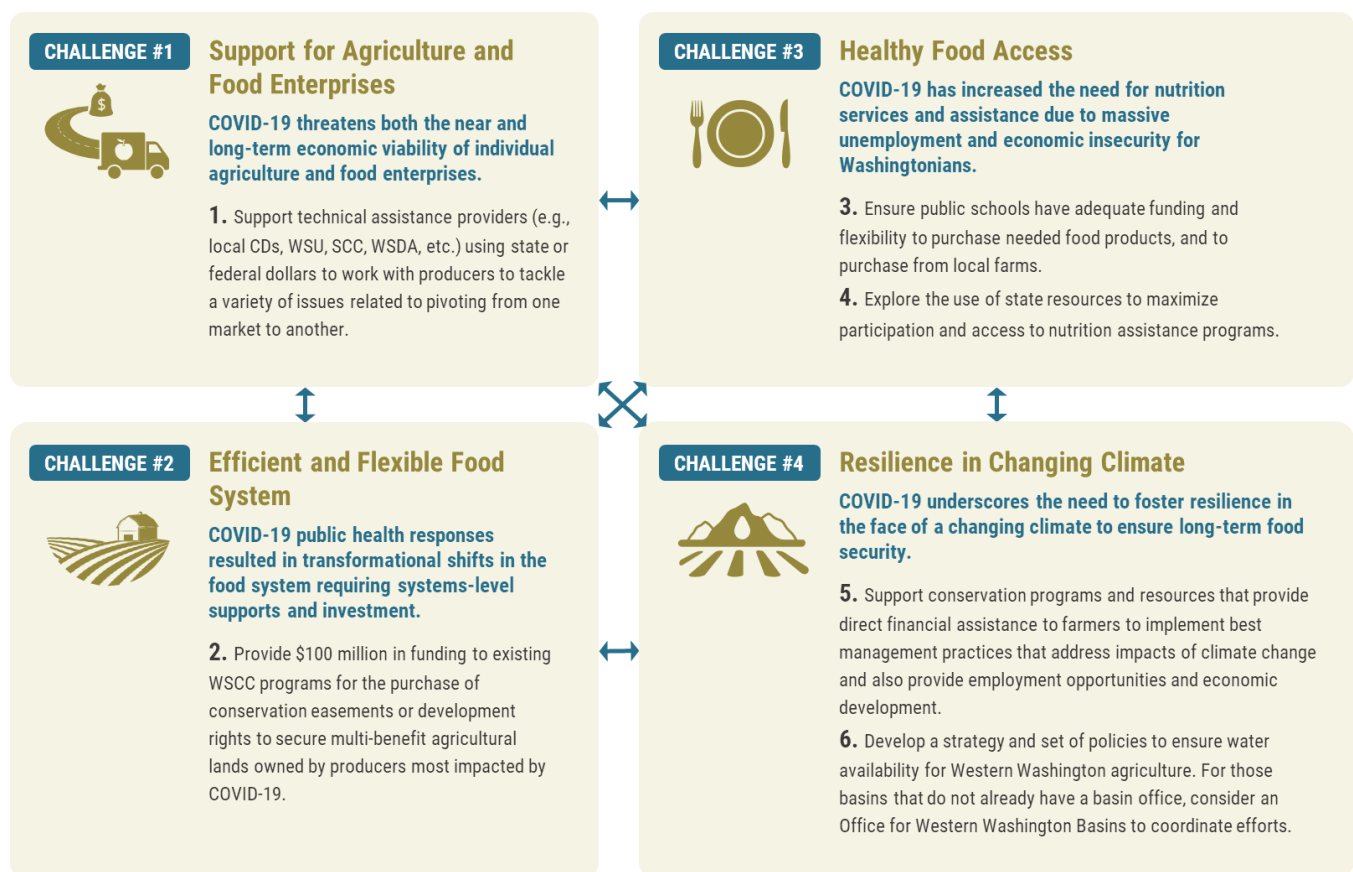
The Washington State Legislature initially created the [Food Policy Forum](#) (Forum) through a budget proviso in 2016 and, in 2017, provided additional funding via proviso to support the Forum through June 2019. In 2020, the Washington State Legislature formally established the Forum in statute.

The Legislature asked the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) "to convene and facilitate a food policy forum." The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) and the Office of Farmland Preservation (OFP) work in partnership with SCC to convene and manage the Forum. Ross Strategic is contracted by SCC to provide facilitation support.

The Forum is a valuable venue for food security interests and agricultural producers to address needed changes to our state's food system.

Recommendations to the Legislature

The Forum's recommendations to the Legislature are organized by four challenges. There are many points of interconnection among the Forum's recommendation areas, and the Forum's recommendations are mutually supportive. The greatest and most effective progress will come from moving multiple food system recommendations forward in tandem so that systems change can occur.



Challenge #1: COVID-19 threatens both the near and long-term economic viability of individual agriculture and food enterprises; these businesses need appropriate relief and relevant services to continue to remain economically viable and operational as they pivot to serve new market and operating demands during the pandemic and beyond.

SUCSESSES:

- \$2 million was allocated for **Conservation Technical Assistance** to support conservation districts to provide outreach and technical assistance to landowners.
- \$336,000 of one-time funding via the state general fund was allocated for a **Small and Mid-Sized Meat Producers and Processors Assistance Program** at the Washington State Department of Agriculture. This is paired with \$3.6 million for grants to increase capacity and access to inspected meat processing for a combined grant and technical assistance program that aims to strengthen the supply chain of local meat production and processing.

Recommendations to the Legislature:

A. Support technical assistance providers (e.g., local CDs, WSU, SCC, WSDA, etc.) using state or federal dollars to work with producers to tackle a variety of issues related to pivoting from one market to another.

Rationale for action now: COVID-19 has created unprecedented economic uncertainty and eliminated or reduced market access for agricultural producers across Washington, especially for farms selling at the regional and local level. As the economic and business landscape continues to shift, the viability of individual agriculture and food enterprises depends on the ability to pivot to markets and innovate their businesses. This is particularly true for small, direct, and regionally marketing farms, including farmers market farms, Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms, on-farm stores, u-pick and agritourism, food hubs and similar cooperative aggregation and distribution models. Technical assistance providers play an important role in supporting farm and food business viability, including supporting businesses in making important market pivots. Many resources have come online or been restructured over the past 18 months. It is critical to ensure that access to resources is smooth and equitable.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

Support a diversity (in terms of culture, race, geography, size, economic conditions, crops, and markets) of producers accessing useful and relevant technical assistance that helps them successfully navigate market disruptions, enter new markets, and achieve greater economic viability.

Maximize the reach of technical assistance by including a networking and education component to reach diverse growers. For example, King Conservation District (CD) has found success reaching a greater diversity of growers through education and engagement. King CD has increased the grantees who are Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) led orgs from few to 25%, to 50%.

Technical assistance is successful when it meets the needs of producers and is provided by trusted entities. More information is needed on the current technical assistance landscape – specifically, the technical assistance needs of producers not currently served by the system, who is currently offering what technical assistance and to what extent growers trust the technical assistance providers.

Smaller producers don't have the same capacity to make the market pivot or make it fast, consider extending application deadlines and targeting some producers with extra help to participate.

Consider how to include smaller non-profit technical assistance providers (e.g., Living Well Kent, etc.) which either serve or are led by BIPOC communities. Ensure smaller technical assistance providers serving underserved communities have more access to capacity building resources. Partnership development among technical assistance providers may be one way to support capacity of smaller or newer technical assistance providers.

Consider how technical assistance programs can bridge cultural and language gaps by hiring bilingual and bicultural staff.

Support federal grant seekers who may have trouble navigating the often-burdensome system (e.g., grants.gov navigation, receiving and DUNS number, etc.). Consider how state entities or established technical assistance providers can be the applicant to federal opportunities in partnership with producers.

Challenge #2: COVID-19 public health responses resulted in transformational shifts in the food system requiring systems-level supports and investment to maintain the functional capacity and flexibility of our food system to meet immediate needs and build resiliency for an uncertain future.

SUCSESSES:

- **Farm PAI** program was approved by the Washington State Housing Finance Commission (WSFHC) to advance land access opportunities and to protect farmland. The Forum's support of the program communicated via letters to the WSHFC and WSCC was influential in gaining program approval. This is one-time funding for a revolving loan program.
- **Farmland Protection Funding:** Millions of dollars in one-time funding from state capital budget funds will be available through three state agencies. Primary funding is going to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program with \$8.6 million for farmland preservation. At least \$2.5 million for farmland preservation will be available through Ecology's Floodplains by Design and at least \$1.5 million for farmland preservation will be available to SCC through a federal program.
- **Snohomish County** received \$2.5M to stand up their **Food and Farming Center**, which will be a facility for processing, aggregation, and distribution for product from all over the region.

- WSDA is directed to use \$17M in one time funding (Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds) **two grant programs focused on local food system infrastructure and supply chain and market access** to support farms, food processors, and food distributors pivot to new markets. This includes \$8M for local supply chain and market access prioritized for minority, women and small business owners. The intention is to support producers in processing and getting product to consumers within Washington state and the region. *WSDA will be engaging the Forum in 2021 as part of its effort to design equity considerations into its implementation of these grant programs.*

Recommendations to the Legislature:

B. Provide \$100 million in funding to existing WSCC programs for the purchase of agricultural conservation easements or development rights to protect farmland for continued agriculture production and secure multi-benefit agricultural lands owned by producers most impacted by COVID-19. These tools not only provide direct cash support for producers in need but also reduce land costs for the next generation of farmers while protecting the agricultural conservation values of the property in perpetuity. The SCC's Office of Farmland Preservation has developed the flexible administrative structure, technical expertise, and relationships with conservation practitioners necessary to get significant funding on the ground quickly to support farmers in dire need. The landscape continues to change, and the sector needs support. This speaks directly to the problems of today that require solutions.

Rationale for taking action now: A large amount of interest and demand currently exists in the sector around the use of agricultural conservation easements to support farmers and preserve farmland. Easements are a tool that can help emerging farmers, particularly those who have historically faced barriers in land acquisition. Rural communities are noticing an increase in demand for their land due to the remote work boom and ongoing housing crisis in Washington and the region. This increased demand is spurring development and driving up prices. This not only undermines our regional food security and the resilience of our food systems, but puts the important ecological benefits that farmland provides at risk. We need a clear set of farmland protection tools to address these trends in the face of COVID-19, and into the future. Washington is well-situated to rise to the challenge with a diverse, coordinated network of farmland preservation partners, including SCC, the Washington Association of Land Trusts, American Farmland Trust, Washington Association of CDs, county government programs, and local land trusts. SCC's Office of Farmland Preservation has an agricultural easement account that to date has not been fully funded.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

In order for this program to advance equity, it needs to target BIPOC farmers, female farmers, and new and beginning farmers; all groups that historically have had less access to such programs. In order to effectively reach and serve these groups, the program needs to be capable of disseminating funds quickly.

Quick dissemination will rely on program flexibility, including but not limited to not requiring matching funds and not locking in a new landowner to maintain production of the same crops as the previous owner.

Include peri-urban lots, rural small acreage lots as well as larger rural parcels

Offer technical assistance to participate (e.g., navigating financing) and conduct outreach to educate about the opportunity.

Housing for farming families is an issue in Washington State. The development of a new easement needs to consider that and allow for those who are selling development rights to maintain options around building housing for themselves and farm labor if necessary.

Latino farmers are the fastest growing population of producers in Washington State. An effective program should consider multilingual and multicultural outreach strategies to increase the chances that all producers learn about the program.

Challenge #3: COVID-19 has increased the need for nutrition services and assistance due to massive unemployment and economic insecurity for Washingtonians.

SUCSESSES:

- A **farm to school purchasing grant** is included the 2021-23 state budget (\$5M Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds to the WSDA Farm to School Program. Ongoing, future fund source not indicated).
- \$3 million per biennium is now ongoing to support the **Fruit and Vegetable Incentive Program** (Dept. of Health) from the Washington State General Fund.
- **HB 1151 passed** and included provisions to expand transitional food assistance for people leaving SNAP and avoiding a food benefit cliff.
- \$23M in one-time Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Funds in the 2021-23 budget for expanded food bank supports and the Emergency Food Assistance Program and \$45M to support WA-grown food boxes for emergency food distribution and supports for BIPOC communities (WSDA).
- **HB 1342 eliminated the reduced-price school lunch co-pay** for grades pre-K and grades 4 through 12. The Washington State Legislature now provides funding to cover the co-pay for all grades (Pre-K through 12) for both breakfast and lunch.
- **ESSER III Funding:** The legislature passed through \$4M in federal ESSER III funds to be directed specifically for grants for supplies, equipment, staffing, and services to increase access to summer meals and safe school meals in the 2021-22 school year.
- USDA has released waivers and guidance for SY2021-22 that allows all schools to provide meals to all children free of charge by operating **the Seamless Summer Option**.
- \$9M in capital budget allocated for several food bank capital projects.

Recommendations to the Legislature:

C. Ensure public schools have adequate funding and flexibility to purchase needed food products, and to purchase from local farms. Available Washington-grown food might be at a higher price point than institutional buyers can afford. Use federal and state dollars to help make Washington-grown purchases by schools and food banks.

Rationale for taking action now: The evidence is clear that programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps); the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC); and school meals reduce hunger and improve health, nutrition, and wellbeing. The number of Washingtonians reporting food insecurity declined in 2020 thanks in part to programs like these; but there is more work to do to reduce hunger. There are two areas of action.

This first area of action concerns supporting growers and people with low incomes by purchasing food from Washington growers, including small and mid-scale farms. See recommendation D below for the second area of action.

Getting Washington-grown food into the state's public nutrition programs is a win-win for local farms and food security. Hunger and food insecurity are symptoms of the deeper and broader problem of poverty: often people with low incomes do not have enough money to buy enough food, and meals are skipped to divert limited funds to other necessary, but inflexible, expenses like paying rent, utilities, childcare, or health care. Serving local produce through these programs not only provides the opportunity to entice kids to try something new, but also creates market opportunities for Washington producers.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

Often, due to funding restraints, there cannot be immediate universal implementation of a program like this in districts across the state. As a result, careful consideration needs to be placed on equity when making decisions about which schools are beneficiaries of the program. Simply providing the program to the schools with the highest concentration of poverty will result in leaving many food-insecure kids behind.

The fiscal note needs to adequately compensate community stakeholders who participate in program design for their expertise and time. It also needs to account for funding for the agencies standing these programs up so they can do so in a thoughtful and careful manner.

Consider how to reach farmers who have not historically been connected to the systems and relationships to participate in programs like this and how to reach schools with fewer staff resources and know-how to apply for funds.

The creation of a program like this should incorporate enough flexibility to be able to account for learning that will take place throughout program creation; this learning should involve people who may be experiencing food insecurity so they can help design solutions that meet their needs.

D. Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs, such as: Explore data share agreements and IT investments and how systems can be better connected to support

eligibility outreach and enrollment for WIC and SNAP and free/reduced priced school meals and child nutrition to ensure seamless enrollment for participants who are eligible for both more than one programs, and to make WIC participation easier (e.g., online scheduling for appointments, online classes, etc.).

Rationale for taking action now: This second area of action concerns making IT investments to create a frictionless enrollment environment for Washingtonians who are eligible for nutrition assistance programs. Improvements to nutrition program IT infrastructure will allow Washingtonians in need to layer the benefits that they are eligible for, which is a proven mechanism for reducing hunger, improving health outcomes, and lowering healthcare costs. It is possible that this would entail large upfront costs of time and money, but the investment will ultimately have a huge payoff in savings and efficiencies for the state as well as long-term benefits for food insecure Washingtonians. This recommendation aligns with both the Governor’s Poverty Reduction Workgroup 10-year plan to reduce poverty and inequality in Washington State and the Legislative Executive WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force 5-year plan.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

Automation will not be the answer for all eligible SNAP/WIC/free and reduced priced school meals participants, nor should it be viewed as such. After an automated system is implemented, the state can focus resources on the people for whom automation does not work (e.g., people with limited literacy, people without access to phones or computers). It will free up time for people to engage face to face with applicants who need more support.

Understand barriers to enrollment from the eligible but unenrolled perspective.

This recommendation will improve utilization of the systems, therefore making them more effective for our state.

Challenge #4: COVID-19 underscores the need to foster resilience in the face of a changing climate to ensure long-term food security.

SUCSESSES:

- **Both the ongoing Soil Health Initiative and the one-time organics proviso** should be able to provide carbon accounting support for the **Sustainable Farms and Fields Program**. Funding to WSU for the Soil Health Initiative was passed in full.

Recommendations to the Legislature:

E. Support conservation programs and resources that provide direct financial assistance to farmers to implement best management practices that address impacts of climate change and also provide employment opportunities and economic development. Programs such as the Sustainable Farm and Fields and Soil Health Initiative have the

potential to be examined for this purpose. Provide funds and technical assistance for farmers to implement cover crops, no till, organic amendments, etc. This allows farmers to have funding – not tied to loans – that directly supports farm viability and production, and addresses conservation and climate change goals.

Rationale for taking action now: Climate change will impact our state’s water quality and availability, soil quality and condition, and other elements of food production in different ways across our diverse regions.

Some actions related to providing long-term support to farmers that also address the impacts of climate change have been sidelined to rapidly changing COVID-19 response needs. However, we can provide immediate financial assistance to farmers to promote resilience in the face of a changing climate and ensure long-term food security, as the effects of COVID-19 will continue to have impacts for the foreseeable future. The Forum recommendations were drafted with a recognition that much of the assistance that came online during COVID-19 was in the form of loans, which are not necessarily sustainable supports for farmers in the long-term.

We know that climate change will impact farmers universally, and we also know that certain groups of farmers will be impacted more significantly. The equity considerations below each recommendation begin the processing of thinking about how to address those inequitable impacts.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

This proposal works to address issues that otherwise would have equity implications, but only if it is implemented in a proper way would it be effective.

The implementation of this recommendation should ensure that the process for participating in conservation programs is streamlined and does not create undue burdens.

Consider if the program has gone through initial climate risk assessment, a process that can help inform the geographic location of farm communities who will be vulnerable to the impacts of climate change (whether that be flood, drought, rising sea level, or other climate change impacts). This assessment could inform where these programs may have a greater impact. Use an equitable approach to building the climate risk component.

F. Develop a strategy and set of policies to ensure water availability for Western Washington agriculture. For those basins that do not already have a basin office, consider an Office for Western Washington Basins to coordinate efforts.

Rationale for taking action now: Forecasted changes in water availability, particularly through changes in seasonal and regional distribution and availability, can increase competition between in-stream and out-of-stream uses. The long-term sustainability of agriculture in Washington will be impacted by how well our agricultural sectors adapt to climate change. Climate models project a rise in temperatures during both the winter chilling period and the growing season. Winter precipitation is projected to increase, while summer precipitation is projected to decrease, lengthening the dry season. These changes will impact water availability and demand, as well as facilitate the spread of fungal diseases, weed species, and other pests. Existing conflicts between agricultural production

systems and the environment such as water quality impairments, water depletion, and species and habitat declines will likely become more pronounced in coming decades.

EQUITY CONSIDERATIONS:

It is important to be aware of and consider those who don't have legal water rights in the implementation of this recommendation. However, even farmers with legal water rights have some risks; legal water rights are not guaranteed water access (relinquishment, senior rights trumping junior water rights, etc.).

Climate change will impact farmers universally and impact certain farmer groups more significantly. This recommendation should be implemented through the lens of climate impacts.

In a lot of watershed/management planning, farmers do not have the same level of support (government and admin knowledge) as other entities. The proposed Office of Western WA could provide farmers with more support to be successful in the face of a changing climate.



Appendix A – Forum Membership

Current members were appointed following the guidance on composition of the Forum outlined in the 2019 budget proviso:

- a. In making appointments, the director of the commission must attempt to ensure a diversity of knowledge, experience, and perspectives by building on the representation established by the food system roundtable initiated by Executive Order 10-02.
- b. In addition to members appointed by the director of the SCC, four legislators may serve on the food policy forum in an ex officio capacity. Legislative participants must be appointed as follows:
 - i. The speaker of the house of representatives shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the house of representatives; and
 - ii. The president of the senate shall appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses of the senate

*Indicates Food Policy Forum leadership

First	Last	Affiliation
Aaron	Czyzewski	Food Lifeline
Addie	Candib	American Farmland Trust
Ali	Jensen	Whatcom County Health Department (<i>Alternate for Chris Elder</i>)
Alyssa	Auvinen	Washington State Department of Health
Andy	Billig	Washington State Legislature
Aslan	Meade	Thurston Economic Development Council
Babette	Roberts	Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Brian	Estes	LINC Foods
Carol*	Smith	Washington State Conservation Commission
Chad	Kruger	Washington State University
Chris	Voigt	Washington State Potato Commission
Chris	Elder	Whatcom County Public Works
Christina	Wong	Northwest Harvest
Claire	Lane	Washington State Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
Colleen	Donovan	Washington State Farmers Market Association
Dan	Wood	Washington State Dairy Federation
David	Faro	Thurston Economic Development Council (<i>Alternate for Aslan Meade</i>)
Derek*	Sandison	Washington Department of Agriculture
Diana	Carlen	Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Diane	Dempster	Clark County Food System Council
Jon	DeVaney	Washington Tree Fruit Association
Judy	Warnick	Washington State Legislature
Kate*	Delavan	Washington State Conservation Commission
Laura	Lewis	Washington State University
Laura*	Raymond	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Leanne	Eko	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

First	Last	Affiliation
Linda	Neunzig	Snohomish County
Mark	Fountain	Food Northwest
Mary	Dye	Washington State Legislature
Mary	Embleton	King Conservation District
Melissa	Spear	Tilth Alliance
Mia	Gregerson	Washington State Legislature
Nancy	Warner	Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship
Nate	Lewis	Washington Farmland Trust
Nick	Norton	Washington Association of Land Trusts
Patrick "PJ"	Cawley	Charlie's Produce
Richard	Conlin	Puget Sound Regional Council
Ron*	Shultz	Washington State Conservation Commission
Tim	Crosby	Cascadia Foodshed Financing Project
Tom	Davis	Washington State Farm Bureau
Tom	Salzer	Washington Association of Conservation Districts
Trish	Twomey	Washington Food Coalition



Appendix B – Process for Developing Recommendations

The Forum worked from September to October 2021 to identify recommendations from the Forum’s [2019](#) and [2020](#) consensus reports that are relevant and actionable by the Legislature during the upcoming session. The Forum Challenge Teams (See Challenge Team rosters in Appendix B) met twice in September to workshop content that informs full Forum meeting discussions and the October report.

- During Challenge Team Call #1: Teams chose two recommendations that warrant action by the Legislature next session. The process was *not* about creating new recommendations but highlighting for the Legislature a handful of consensus recommendations that seem timely and relevant for legislative action.
- During Challenge Team Call #2: Teams applied the Forum’s equity filter to each recommendation and highlighted key points for the Legislature to consider for implementation.
- In between Challenge Team Calls, the full Forum met to review the recommendations being put forward and the results of the Challenge Team’s equity analysis exercise.

Week of Sept 13	Challenge Team Calls (1 of 2): Teams choose 2 recommendations that warrant action by the Legislature next session
Week of Sept 20	Full Forum Meeting (1 of 2): Present recommendations being put forward.
Week of Sept 27	Challenge Team Calls (2 of 2): Teams apply the equity filter to recs.
Week of Oct 4	Full Forum Meeting (2 of 2): Present equity analysis for discussion and feedback.
Week of Oct 18	Incorporate Forum edits and refine deliverable
Week of Oct 25	Incorporate Forum edits and refine deliverable
Week of Oct 29	Submit Final Deliverable



Appendix C – Challenge Team Rosters

The Forum organized itself into topical Challenge Teams which met in September 2021 to identify and discuss early implementation actions from its 2019 set of consensus recommendations. Teams refined the recommended actions in light of COVID-19 needs and responses.

Challenge Team #1

First	Last	Affiliation
Aslan	Meade	Thurston Economic Development Council
Brian	Estes	LINC Foods
David	Faro	Thurston Economic Development Council (<i>Alternate for Aslan Meade</i>)
Derek	Sandison	Washington Department of Agriculture
Diane	Dempster	Clark County Food System Council
Judy	Warnick	Washington State Legislature
Laura	Lewis	Washington State University

First	Last	Affiliation
Laura	Raymond	Washington State Department of Agriculture
Mary	Dye	Washington State Legislature
Mary	Embleton	King Conservation District
Tim	Crosby	Cascadia Foodshed Financing Project
Tom	Davis	Washington State Farm Bureau

Challenge Team #2

First	Last	Affiliation
Addie	Candib	American Farmland Trust
Ali	Jensen	Whatcom County Health Department (<i>Alternate for Chris Elder</i>)
Chris	Elder	Whatcom County Public Works
Colleen	Donovan	Washington State Farmers Market Association
Jon	DeVaney	Washington Tree Fruit Association
Kate	Delavan	Washington State Conservation Commission
Linda	Neunzig	Snohomish County
Mark	Fountain	Food Northwest
Melissa	Spear	Tilth Alliance
Nancy	Warner	Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship
Nate	Lewis	Washington Farmland Trust
Nick	Norton	Washington Association of Land Trusts
Patrick "PJ"	Cawley	Charlie's Produce
Ron	Shultz	Washington State Conservation Commission
Tom	Salzer	Washington Association of Conservation Districts

Challenge Team #3

First	Last	Affiliation
Aaron	Czyzewski	Food Lifeline
Alyssa	Auvinen	Washington State Department of Health

First	Last	Affiliation
Babette	Roberts	Washington State Department of Social and Health Services
Christina	Wong	Northwest Harvest
Claire	Lane	Washington State Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
Leanne	Eko	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Mia	Gregerson	Washington State Legislature
Trish	Twomey	Washington Food Coalition

Challenge Team #4

First	Last	Affiliation
Ali	Jensen	Whatcom County Health Department (<i>Alternate for Chris Elder</i>)
Chad	Kruger	Washington State University
Chris	Voigt	Washington State Potato Commission
Chris	Elder	Whatcom County Public Works
Dan	Wood	Washington State Dairy Federation
Diana	Carlen	Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Melissa	Spear	Tilth Alliance
Richard	Conlin	Puget Sound Regional Council