



The following PowerPoint captures both the key takeaways from discussion and speaker notes documenting listening session presentations. Please see text below the slides to review speaker perspectives.

Agenda

1. Welcome and Get Settled
2. Context Setting: What and How of the Farm Bill 2023 Reauthorization
3. Jamboard: What does the Farm Bill mean to you locally?
4. Impact of the Farm Bill in Washington
5. Advancing Forum Recommendations Through the Farm Bill
6. Wrap Questions & Discussion

Meeting Objectives

Educate food system stakeholders about the Farm Bill and process for the 2023 Reauthorization.

Raise awareness about the ways the Farm Bill impacts Washingtonians through a food systems lens.

Identify opportunities to improve the Farm Bill to advance the Forum's consensus recommendations.

10/12 Takeaways: Discussion Overview

What the Farm Bill means to us locally:

- **Benefits to Washington agriculture**
 - Competitiveness and sustainability
 - Climate & resiliency research
 - Access to conservation programs
 - Assistance in international trade
 - Support for small farms
- **Large scale effects on our food system**
 - Connect producers to school nutrition and food banks
- **Dignity & Opportunity for WA's 950,000+ hungry people**

What we are curious about:

- **Increased sustainability and climate resiliency in conservation and farming programs and practices.**
- **How the Farm Bill is reaching underserved farming groups and BIPOC farmers?**
- **How can we support producers (small producers, specialty crop producers) via the Farm Bill?**
- **Improve safety net programs, including incorporating a COLA for SNAP.**

10/12 Takeaways: Jamboard Overview

Priorities or areas of improvement for the farm bill in 2023:

- Capacity
 - Increase NRCS staffing to provide more technical services
 - Ensure adequate staffing to administer programs
 - Help repair the supply chain problems following COVID
- Funding Flow
 - Increase funding for ag research, rural ag economic development, and organic practice adoption
 - Create incentives for people to purchase foods that are nutrient dense
 - Increase funding for LAMP, specialty crop grants, SNAP, and research programs
 - Prioritize investments at scale for conservation
- Access
 - Prioritize lower barrier to entry to grants for BIPOC, new/beginning, and small farmers and assistance with acquiring land
 - Support farmland access and food access programs
 - Update of nutrition title to simplify access, align across safety net program areas, support education and training programs, and improve adoption
 - Expand access to SNAP for low-income population

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Introduction to the Washington Food Policy Forum





Ron Shultz commented that the SCC is one of the co-conveners of the food policy forum. We co-convene with the state department of agriculture, and we also work with our office of farmland preservation team. The forum was established in 2016 through a budget proviso and continued through 2020. At the Forum, we've tried to convene a broad diversity of stakeholders with interest around the food system in WA. We've issued a number of reports in 2017 and 2019. In 2020, we did an early action report, where we also included recommendations in response to COVID. We released another report in 2021- all of these can be found on the SCC webpage. As we move forward, we have been working to focus our work in three work groups: State Brand, Farm Bill 2023 coordination, and Informing Land Use Policy. We aim to increase awareness and understanding of the Farm Bill. The Farm Bill covers 5 years of federal spending and policy direction. We will be reviewing the elements of the Farm Bill that WA benefits from today. We will further start the conversation about how we want to position ourselves as the Forum to provide recommendations for consideration for the 2023 farm bill. We have a number of guests who will help us understand the Farm Bill and how WA state benefits. They will provide us with insight and understanding around the Farm Bill.

Name	Organization	Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Aaron Czyzewski	Food Lifeline	Colleen Donovan	WA State Farmers Market Association	Melissa Spear	Tilth Alliance
Addie Candib	American Farmland Trust	Dan Wood	WA State Dairy Federation	Mia Gregerson	WA State Legislature
Alyssa Auvinen	Washington State Department of Health	Derek Sandison	WA Department of Agriculture	Nate Lewis	WA Farmland Trust
Aslan Meade	Thurston Economic Development Council	Diana Carlen	WA Association of Wheat Growers	Patrick "PJ" Cawley	Charlie's Produce
Babette Roberts	Washington State Department of Social and Health Services	Diane Dempster	Clark County Food System Council	Richard Conlin	Conlin Columbia Partnership for Cities
Brian Estes	LINC Foods	Jon DeVaney	WA Tree Fruit Association	Tim Crosby	Thread Fund
Brooklyn Holton	Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship	Judy Warnick	WA State Legislature	Tom Salzer	WA Association of Conservation Districts
Chad Kruger	Washington State University - CSANR	Leanne Eko	WA Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction	Trish Twomey	WA Food Coalition
Chris Voigt	Washington State Potato Commission	Linda Neunzig	Snohomish County	Yasmin Trudeau	WA State Legislature
Chris Elder	Whatcom County Public Works	Marcy Ostrom	Washington State University	Vacant	WA State Farm Bureau
Chris Pettit	WA State Conservation Commission	Kirsten Ringen	Food Northwest	Vacant	WA Young Farmers Coalition
Christina Wong	Northwest Harvest	Mary Dye	Washington State Legislature	Vacant	WA Association of Land Trusts
Claire Lane	WA State Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition	Mary Embleton	King Conservation District		

Current membership includes representation from economic development, processing and distribution, anti-hunger and food accesses, elected officials, producers and more.

The Washington food policy forum is established as a public-private collaborative effort and its purpose is to advance the following food system goals:

The Forum was established in statute in 2020 after being initially created through a budget proviso in 2016.

- **Increase the availability of Washington-grown foods throughout the state**, including by increasing direct marketing and other regional supply chains sales and consumption of Washington-grown foods.
- **Expand and promote programs that bring healthy and nutritious Washington-grown foods to Washington residents**, including increased public and private purchasing of Washington food products for schools, adult care programs, and other publicly funded food programs.
- **Identify ways to improve coordination and communication** among city, county, regional, and state food policy entities and communication between these entities and state agencies.

The Forum finalized its charter this summer.

Forum goals cont.

- **Reduce food insecurity and hunger** in the state.
- **Identify current rules and regulations impeding the viability of small and mid-scale agriculture.**
- Identify new policies that would **improve the viability of small and mid-scale agriculture.**
- Examine ways to **encourage retention of an adequate number of farmers for small and mid-scale farms, meet the educational needs for the next generation of farmers,** and provide for the continued **economic viability of Washington food production, processing, and distribution** in the state.
- In addition to the goals identified in the Forum's statute, Forum members have identified additional goals regarding how the Forum could identify opportunities to address **equity** and the **impacts of climate change** in the state's food system.

The Forum's Systems Lens

Through a three-part process beginning in January 2018 the Forum defined which aspects of the food system to focus on.

101 Level

Food systems experts introduced the Forum to a variety of food system issues and initial recommendation ideas were identified.

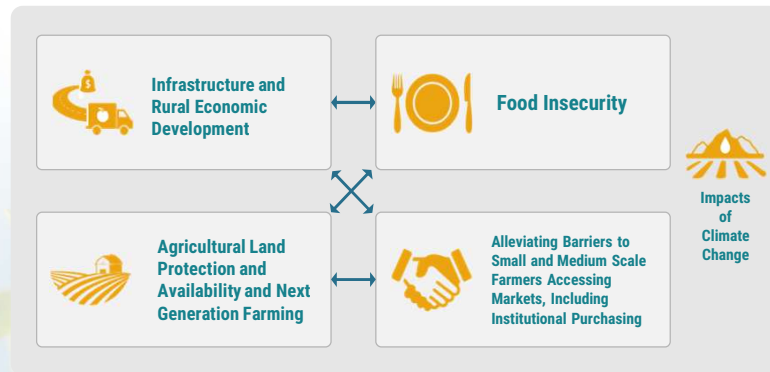
201 Level

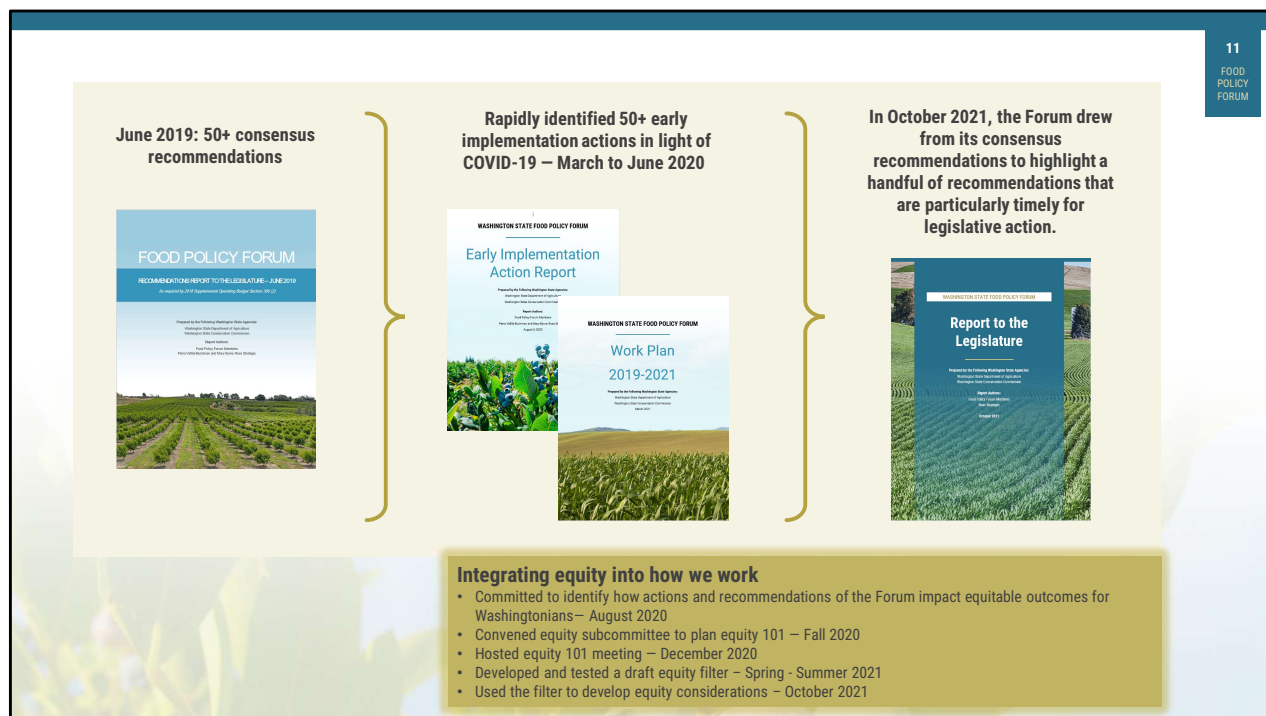
Food systems experts offered in-depth discussion and proposed recommendations for the following seven topics that were collectively prioritized by the Forum

301 Level

The Forum launched teams to make recommendations in five areas of the food system.

The greatest and most effective progress will come from moving multiple food system changes forward in tandem so that systems change can occur





Forum action has often looked like recommendations to the legislature including:

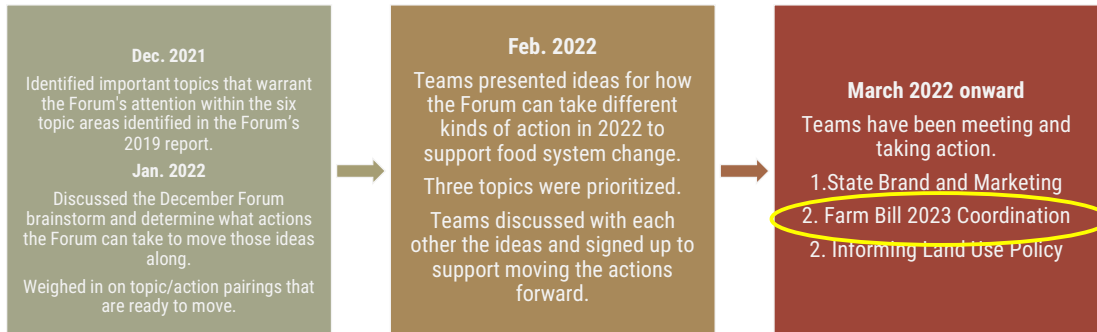
- The Washington State Food Policy Forum (Forum) has been convening since 2016 to reflect on key challenges facing our state's food system.
- In 2019, the Forum came to

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.

Current Phase of Work



Farm Bill 2023 Action Team Roster

- Food Lifeline
- American Farmland Trust
- Initiative for Rural Innovation and Stewardship
- Northwest Harvest
- Tilth Alliance
- WA Anti-Hunger and Nutrition Coalition
- WA Department of Health
- WA Department of Social and Health Services
- WA Food Coalition
- WA Legislature
- WA State Conservation Commission
- WA State Department of Agriculture
- WA Tree Fruit Association

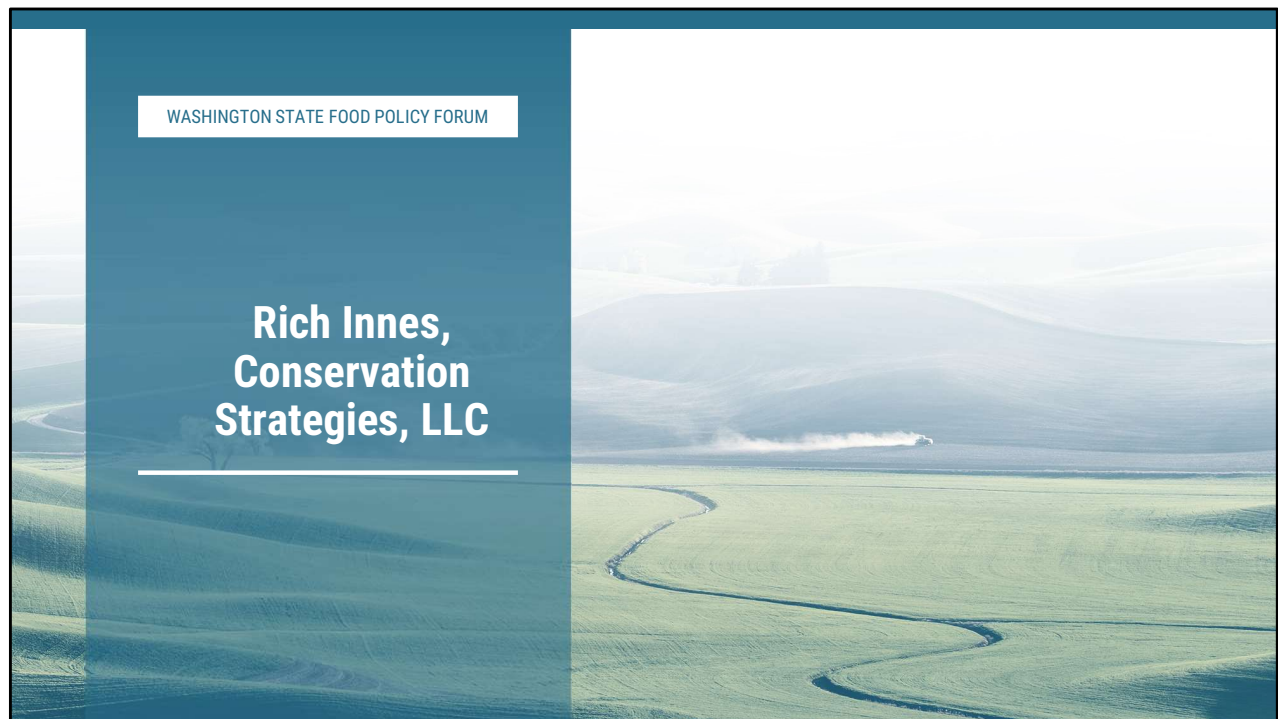
We're pleased to have a few guest speakers with us today to help us understand the context of the farm bill and opportunity to advance food system change:

- Jen Cash, Legislative Director - Rep. Kim Schrier (WA-08) *Tentative:*
- Rich Innes, Conservation Strategies, LLC
- Jon Wyss, State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Washington State
- Katherine Un, National Young Farmers Coalition
- Ariana Taylor-Stanley, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Context Setting: What and How of the Farm Bill 2023 Reauthorization





Rich Innes, with Conservation Strategies, shared that the Washington state voice is going to be an important voice and the Forum is an exceptional place to make that voice heard. Speaking with one voice and producing recommendations around how to improve the Farm Bill for WA state is helpful not only for the public policy, but also for the delegation to hear from you. Innes commented that a recent senate hearing in Michigan emphasized climate change, conservation programs, and opportunities for mid-sized and local producers as the top priorities. During the hearing, David Scott shared that he wants to support beginning and underserved farms and ranchers specifically.

More than 140 million acres of farmland are currently receiving technical assistance from the federal government. Many of the conservation programs that are currently in play are ones that benefit our state. Those are important to maintain. Sustainable farms and field specifically was passed by the WA state legislature. There are programs that are similar in other states (e.g., Minnesota, other incentive-based programs). Instead of trying to use regulatory tools, it brings farmers to the table using strong incentives. Alison Halpern with SCC have been instrumental in making that program happen. These are the kinds of programs that we are going to want to

emphasize and see underscored and funded as we approach our delegation. The Farm Bill is complex and is the single most important conservation bill that congress passes.

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

**Jon Wyss, State
Executive Director
USDA**



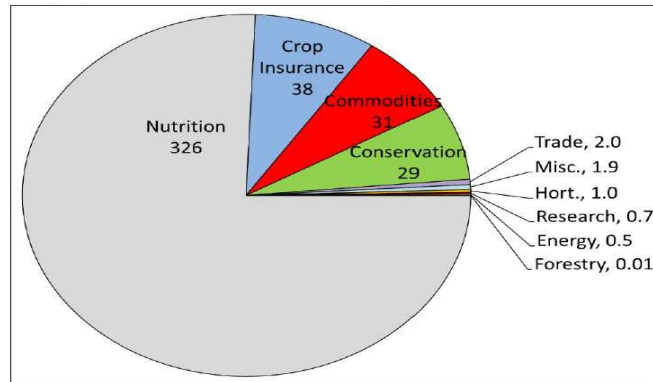
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• FARM BILL AT A GLANCE

Figure 1. Projected Outlays Under the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018, by Title

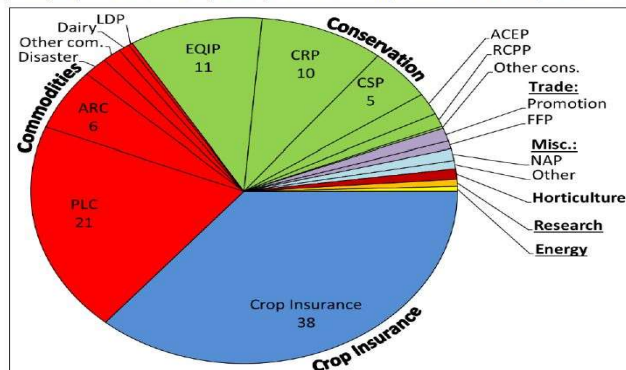
(Five-year projected mandatory outlays at enactment, billions of dollars, FY2019-FY2023)



Source: CRS. Compiled from CBO, "Baseline Projections," April 2018, at the title level as shown in "Cost Estimates for H.R. 2, July 24, 2018; and CBO cost estimate of the conference agreement, December 11, 2018.

Jon Wyss provided an overview of the 2018 Farm Bill title provisions. Jon shared that this chart captures the 2018 Farm Bill in billions of dollars, with most of the funding going to nutrition and programs such as SNAP.

Figure 2. Projected Agriculture Outlays in the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018
(Five-year projected mandatory outlays at enactment, billions of dollars, FY2019-FY2023)



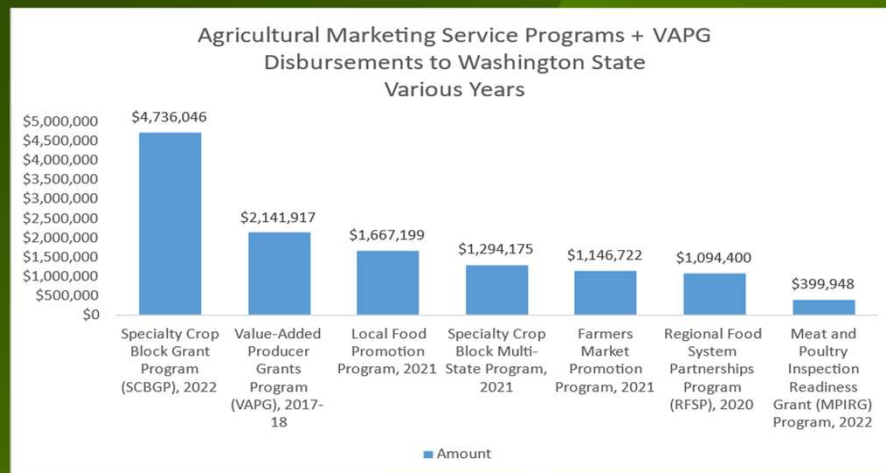
Source: CRS, using CBO Baseline for USDA Mandatory Farm Programs, April 2018; at the title level as shown in "Cost Estimates for H.R. 2, July 24, 2018;" and CBO cost estimate of the conference agreement, December 11, 2018.

Notes: PLC = Price Loss Coverage, ARC = Agricultural Risk Coverage, LDP = Loan Deficiency Payments, EQIP = Environmental Quality Incentives Program, CRP = Conservation Reserve Program, CSP = Conservation

Jon commented that when you break down the titles, you see a picture of the agriculture outlays and how money is flowing to various programs.



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Jon shared an overview of how much funding goes into various grants programs.



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Welcome to the
Farm Service Agency



United States Department of Agriculture

Introduction

- **Jon Wyss – State Executive Director**

- Jon Wyss was appointed by the Biden Administration to serve as the State Executive Director of the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) in Washington State in February 2022.
- Prior to his appointment, Wyss worked for his wife's family company, Gebbers Farms, as an Analyst and Government Affairs Director. He also served as the Chief Deputy Assessor for Spokane County and temporarily served as a Washington State Senator for the 6th Legislative District.



Jon shared an overview of his background and how he fits into this position.



United States Department of Agriculture

What is the Farm Service Agency

The Farm Service Agency is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and provides programs and loans to help farmers, ranchers and agricultural partner organizations provide food, fuel and fiber to millions of people worldwide.



1.6 percent of the US population is farmers. That 1.6 percent feeds over 300 million people. As the Farm Service Agency, we partner with them across the country.



United States Department of Agriculture



Farm Program Info

- ❖ Livestock Forage Program (LFP)
- ❖ Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)
- ❖ Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)
- ❖ Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- ❖ Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)
- ❖ Emergency Relief Program (ERP)

Note: Producers must meet eligibility requirements and submit all documentation prior to payment

Livestock Forage Program

LFP provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses for covered livestock on land that is native or improved pastureland with permanent vegetative cover or is planted specifically for grazing. The grazing losses must be due to a qualifying drought condition during the normal grazing period of the county. LFP also provides compensation to eligible livestock producers that have suffered grazing losses on rangeland managed by a federal agency, if the eligible livestock producer is prohibited by the Federal agency from grazing the normal permitted livestock on the managed rangeland due to a qualifying fire.

Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP)

LIP provides benefits to livestock producers for livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality caused by adverse weather. In addition, LIP covers attacks by animals reintroduced into the wild by the federal government or protected by federal Law, including wolves and avian predators. LIP payments are equal to 75 percent of the market value of the applicable livestock on the day before the date of death of the livestock as determined by the Secretary.

Emergency Livestock Assistance Program (ELAP)

Up to \$20 million of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) funds is available for the ELAP to

provide emergency assistance to eligible producers of livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish. ELAP covers losses due to an eligible adverse weather condition or an eligible loss condition, including blizzards, disease (including cattle tick fever), water shortages and wildfires, as determined by the Secretary, which occurs on or after Oct. 1, 2011. ELAP covers losses that are not covered under other supplemental Agricultural Disaster Assistance Payment programs established by the 2014 Farm Bill, specifically LFP and LIP programs. The ELAP program year begins Oct. 1 of the fiscal year and ends Sept. 30 of the fiscal year.

Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-Raised Fish (ELAP)

- Compensation for grazing losses on private land due to fire
- Assists with physical feed losses and when needed, above normal feed purchases
- Assists with increased transportation costs due to hauling feed or water
- Compensation for honeybee hive or colony losses
- Notice of loss required within 30 days



United States Department of Agriculture

County Committees

- ❖ COC Elections
- ❖ COC Advisors
 - ❖ FSA is looking for participation

There are 3-5 member boards of county committees. Many of the advisors within WA state are representative of minority or underserved communities, including tribal representation. The FSA is always looking for participation in the county committees as they handle much of the county information.



United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Loans Program

- ❖ Farm Operating Loans (Direct & Guaranteed)
 - Microloans
 - Youth Loans
- ❖ Farm Ownership Loans (Direct & Guaranteed)

Farm Operating Loan-Direct and Guaranteed

Eligible applicants may obtain direct loans for up to a maximum indebtedness of \$600,000 and a direct operating Microloan for up to a maximum indebtedness of \$50,000. Maximum indebtedness for a guaranteed loan is \$1,776,000 (amount adjusted annually for inflation). The repayment term may vary, but typically it will not exceed seven years for intermediate-term purposes. Annual operating loans are generally repaid within 12 months or when the commodities produced are sold. In general, loan funds may be used for normal operating expenses, machinery and equipment, minor real estate repairs or improvements, and refinancing debt.

Microloans

The focus of Microloans is on the financing needs of small, beginning farmer, niche and non-traditional farm operations, such as truck farms, farms participating in direct marketing and sales such as farmers' markets, CSA's (Community Supported Agriculture), restaurants and grocery stores, or those using hydroponic, aquaponic, organic and vertical growing methods. There is no minimum loan amount. The maximum loan amount for a Microloan is \$50,000.

Youth Loans

These are available as direct loans only and have a maximum loan amount of \$5,000. Youth loans may be made to individuals who are sponsored by a project advisor, such as a 4-H Club, FFA or local vocational instructor. Individuals must be at least 10 but not more than 20 years old to be eligible.

Farm Ownership Loan-Direct and Guaranteed

Eligible applicants may obtain direct loans up to a maximum indebtedness of \$600,000. Maximum indebtedness for guaranteed loans is \$1,776,000 (amount adjusted annually for inflation). The maximum repayment term is 40 years for both direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans. In general, loan funds may be used to purchase a farm, enlarge an existing farm, construct new farm buildings and/or improve structures, pay closing costs, and promote soil and water conservation and protection.



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Farm Loans Program

- ❖ Targeted Funds to Underserved and Beginning Farmers and Ranchers
- ❖ Down Payment Program
- ❖ Emergency Loans
- ❖ Conservation Loans

Targeted Funds to Underrepresented and Beginning Farmers

Each year Congress targets a percentage of farm ownership and farm operating loan funds to socially disadvantaged (SDA) and beginning farmers. This includes American Indian /Native Americans.

Down Payment Program

Retiring farmers may use this program to transfer their land to future generations.

Emergency Loans

These loans are available only as direct loans from FSA. Emergency Loans assist farmers who have suffered physical or production losses in areas declared by the President as disaster areas or designated by the Secretary of Agriculture as disaster or quarantine areas (for physical losses only, the FSA Administrator may authorize Emergency Loan assistance). For production loss loans, applicants must demonstrate a 30-percent

Conservation Loans

Conservation loans are available as guaranteed loans only. Eligible applicants may use Conservation Loan funds to complete any conservation activity included in a conservation plan or Forestry Management Plan and refinance debts related to implementing any conservation activity if refinancing will result in additional conservation benefits. Maximum

indebtedness is \$1,355,000 (amount adjusted annually for inflation) and the maximum repayment term is 30 years.

Land Contract Guarantees

These provide certain financial guarantees to the seller of a farm through a land contract sale to a beginning or underrepresented farmer.



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Farm Loans Program

❖ Indian Tribal Land Acquisition Loan Program

❖ A valuable resource to help Tribes become owners of additional property within the reservation to advance and increase current operations, provide financial prospects for Native American Communities, increase agricultural productivity, and save farmland for future generations. Through FSA's innovative programming, American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments have the ability to create sustainable and community-driven solutions to rural community challenges. This loan program is financed and serviced by the Farm Service Agency. Funding comes from Congressional appropriations as part of the USDA budget.

❖ Highly Fractionated Indian Land Loan Program

❖ helps Tribes, Tribal entities, and Tribal members alleviate the problems caused by fractionated interests on tribal lands. Through land consolidation, current and new agricultural operations can improve and expand access to USDA programs, increase agricultural productivity, and save Tribal farmland for future generations. This loan program is financed through revolving loan funds from the Agency and serviced through the approved intermediary lender.



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- **Program Participation:** These programs had the highest activity levels for FY 2020 in (State):

○ Conservation Reserve Program	\$8.1 Million
○ ARC/PLC Programs (FY2019)	\$26.8 Million
○ Non-Insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program	\$1.3 Million
○ Livestock Forage Program	\$8.9 Million
○ Livestock Indemnity Program	\$1.8 Million
○ Emergency Livestock Assistance Program	\$3.1 Million
○ DMC	\$22.7 Million
○ FSFL 5 loans	\$228,105
○ MAL 76 loans	\$1.8 million
○ ELRP	\$7.5 Million
○ ERP	\$181 million

- **Farm Loans Programs Loan Profile:**

Direct Operating	661 loans	\$45 million	Guaranteed Ownership	158 loans	\$57 million
Guaranteed Operating	166 loans	\$70 million	Microloans	172 loans	\$3 million

Loans in operation include DMC, which address dairy margin coverage, FSFL (Farm storage facility loans), and MAL (market access loans).



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United States Department of Agriculture



Farm Service Agency

For More Information Contact:

www.fsa.usda.gov

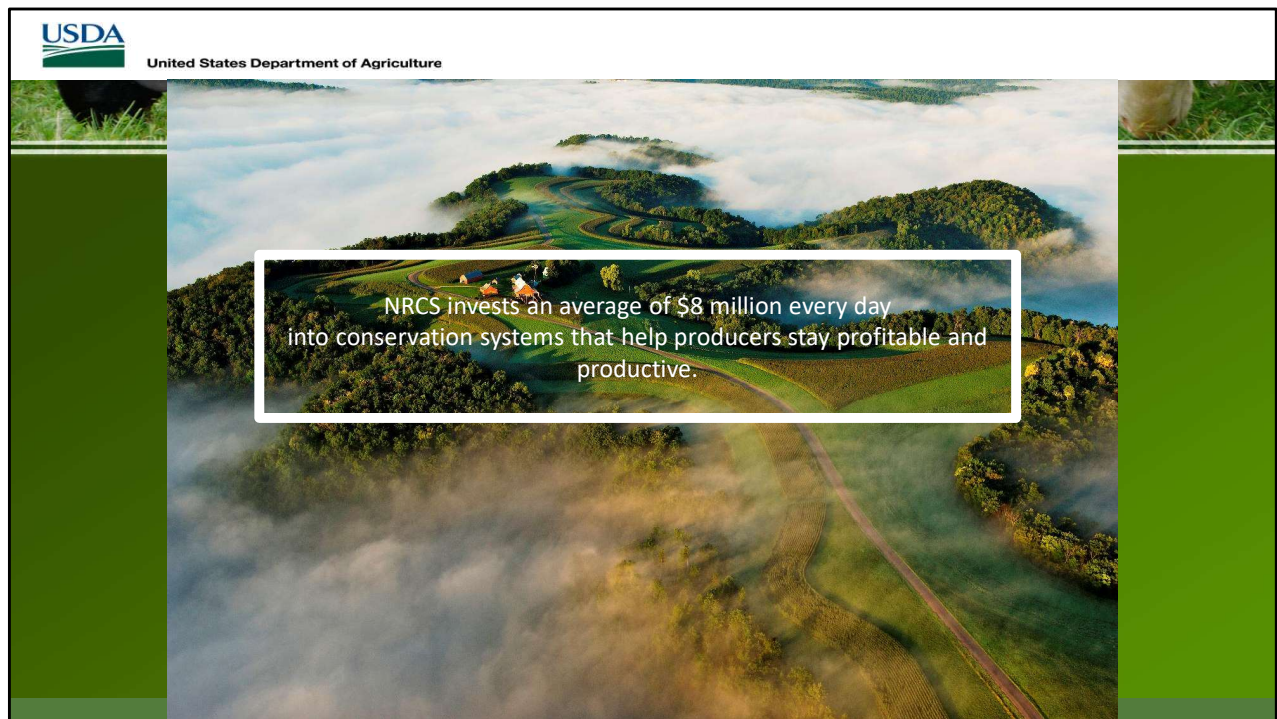
www.farmers.gov



United States Department of Agriculture



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE



FSA's work is made possible by the Farm Bill and delivered through a host of programs, like the Conservation Technical Assistance Program (CTA), the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), just to name a few.

NRCS invests an average of \$8 million every day of the year into conservation systems that help producers stay profitable and productive.

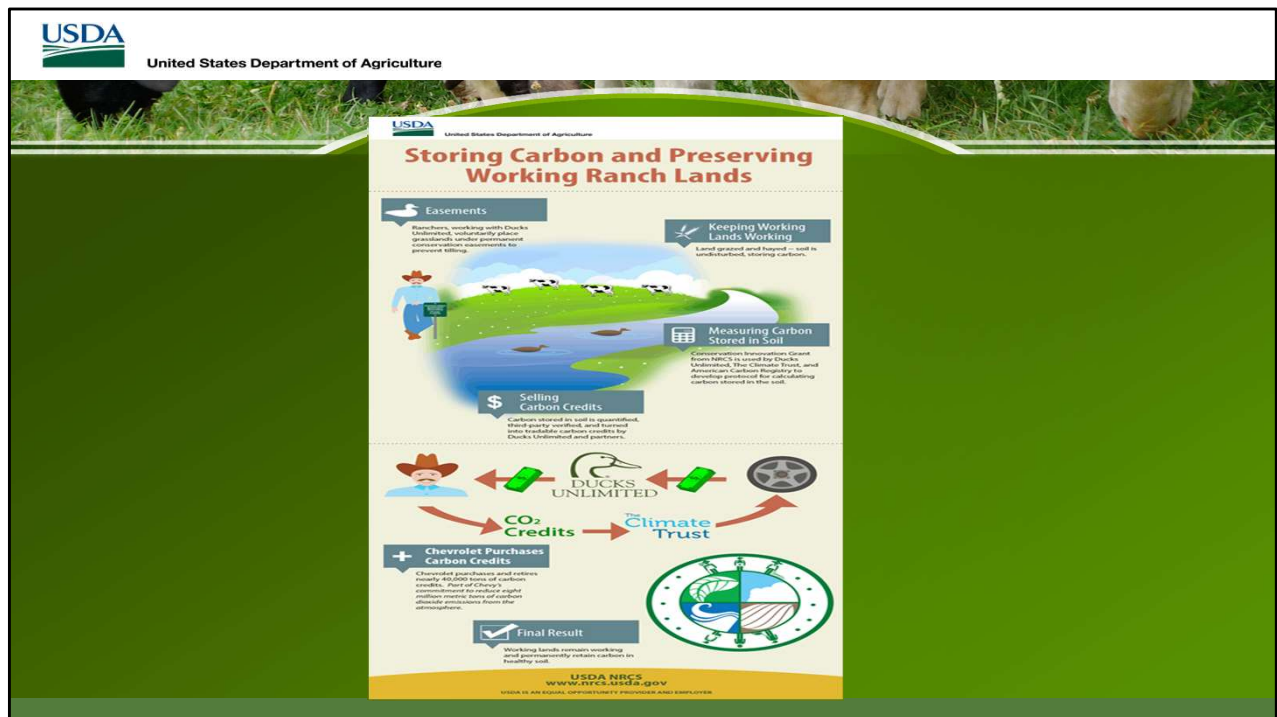


Jon commented that healthy soil is the foundation of agriculture. By using proven soil health practices and systems – like no-till, cover cropping and diverse rotations, producers are increasing the health of their soils and reducing the need for expensive inputs like nutrients and pesticides.

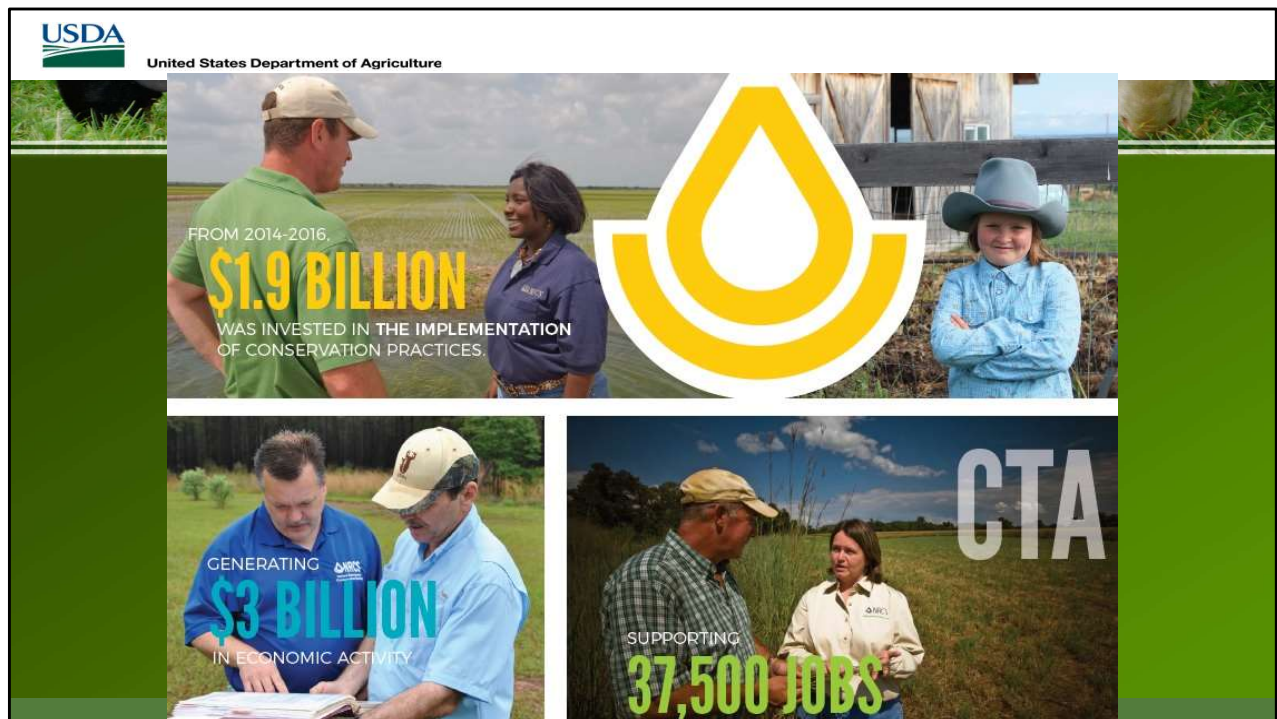
Healthy soils are better at holding water and nutrients. In drought this can help ensure production continues; in heavy rainfall, healthy soils can help keep water and nutrients in the soil where they should be and avert flooding downstream. Soil and nutrients that stay on the land don't end up in our rivers and streams.

We're working with producers to ensure the four basic tenants of soil health are at the forefront – minimize disturbance, keep soil covered, energize the soil with plant diversity, and maximize living roots.

Since 2012, NRCS and its partners have helped producers install soil health practices on more than 40 million acres of working agricultural lands...helping farmers save money and improve their operations efficiency, while at the same time building their resiliency to extreme weather and improving the water quality that leaves the fields.



The highlighted programs are supporting the development of emerging markets for carbon, water quality, wetlands and biodiversity – markets that can become an economic driver for conservation while at the same time generating new sources of income for our rural communities. To the extent that you can measure a conservation benefit, you can market that benefit. Think of it this way – it’s like being able to pay producers for the “bushels of nature” they produce just as easily as they are paid for the bushels of corn and soybeans they produce. Environmental markets present a huge opportunity for producers and conservation. Through programs like the Conservation Innovation Grants Program, we’re fueling the development of new and exciting tools and technologies, helping farmers improve their agricultural and conservation outcomes. As an example, through this program, FSA partner Ducks Unlimited was able to develop a method to quantify carbon stored in the soil by avoiding grassland conversions, resulting in the generation of carbon credits. In 2014, General Motors became the first entity to purchase these credits and this success is being used as a model for future environmental market efforts.



The programs are translating into benefits for rural America and rural communities. Investments in four of our largest assistance programs translated into help for not only the producer who received the support, but others in the community as well.

From 2014-2016:

\$1.9 billion was invested in the implementation of conservation practices through our Conservation Technical Assistance program generating \$3 billion in economic activity and supporting 37,500 jobs.

The CTA program helps farmers develop a conservation plan that will help their operation succeed. These plans provide a roadmap for producers, helping them meet both their production and natural resource goals.

Our unique ability to offer both financial and technical assistance helps ensure that we can meet the diverse needs of our customers.

It translates into more conservation on the land because we can offer producers not only personalized advice from expert conservationists, but also the means to make those recommendations happen if the producer chooses to move forward.

This holistic approach helps us ensure the highest level of customer service while at the same time providing the most conservation return on taxpayer investment.

The father of soil conservation Hugh Hammond Bennett said, "There is no virtue in planning merely for the sake of planning. Unless plans can be translated into action, planning becomes a profitless mental exercise."



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A woman with grey hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt, stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The letters "CSP" are overlaid in large, white, semi-transparent font on the right side of the image. The background is a soft-focus landscape with green hills and a blue sky.

FROM 2014-2016,

\$3 BILLION

WAS INVESTED IN **NEW & EXISTING**
CONSERVATION PRACTICES,

GENERATING

\$3 BILLION

IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY,

SUPPORTING

42,800 JOBS

\$3 billion was invested in new and existing conservation practices through the Conservation Stewardship Program generating \$3 billion in economic activity, supporting 42,800 jobs. CSP is our “pay-for-performance” program offering farmers reliable economic returns for their conservation investment.



United States Department of Agriculture

An infographic for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). It features a background image of an older man and woman in a forest, with the man holding a pine branch. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image. The acronym "EQIP" is written in large white letters on the left. The statistics are presented in large, bold, colored numbers: yellow for investment, green for economic activity, and blue for jobs. The text is arranged in a vertical flow from top to bottom.

FROM 2014-2016,

\$3.5 BILLION

WAS INVESTED IN **NEW & EXISTING**
CONSERVATION PRACTICES,

GENERATING

\$4.3 BILLION

IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY,

SUPPORTING

57,000 JOBS

EQIP

For the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, \$3.5 billion was invested, generating \$4.3 billion in economic activity, supporting 57,000 jobs. EQIP is our flagship financial assistance program for working lands.



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FROM 2014-2016,

\$150 MILLION

WAS INVESTED IN EASEMENTS.

GENERATING

\$189 MILLION

IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY,

SUPPORTING

2,300 JOBS

ACEP

The infographic features a background image of two men standing in a field. The man on the left is wearing a plaid shirt and a cap, pointing towards the left. The man on the right is wearing a light blue polo shirt and jeans. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image, with large, bold numbers and smaller text providing statistics. The word "ACEP" is written in large, white, bold letters on the right side of the image.

For the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program, \$150 million was invested in easements, generating \$189 million in economic activity, supporting 2,300 jobs. ACEP provides assistance to conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.



WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Claire Lane, Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition

Nutrition Programs
in the Farm Bill

Farm bill funds two major anti-hunger strategies in the nutrition title:

1. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)
2. Food banks

Within these strategies, there are several programs and varied eligibility criteria

Also, one small Program: Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program

Claire Lane shared that a vast majority goes to nutrition funding, including SNAP and Food Banks. Other essential anti-hunger strategies – from the WIC Program to school meals to Child & Adult Care Food Program and more – are funded through Child Nutrition Reauthorization. The Farm Bill focuses on SNAP and a range of programs that support Food Banks and the Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program. One small anti-hunger program funded by the Farm Bill (and jointly administered by DSHS & DOH): The Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program --- is a grant programs to states to issue vouchers for low-income seniors (60 yrs old & 185% FPL) to purchase food at farmers markets.

In FFY 2020, USDA shared 725,700 people received SFMNP benefits. The maximum value per household is \$50/year. Nationwide, 14,767 farmers; 2,401 farmers' markets; 2,316 roadside stands, and 71 CSAs were authorized to accept SFMNP. Pre-pandemic (2018 & 2019) WA received ~\$245,000/year (w/ COVID added funds. In 2021, WA received ~\$780,000.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – (or, *Basic Food in WA*)

- **SNAP = food benefits** to purchase groceries
- **SNAP Education = nutrition education** for SNAP-eligible households & communities
- **SNAP Education & Training = job training and education** for SNAP participants (FFY 23: \$11.325 M)
- **(GusNIP) - pilot grants in FB to incentivize increased consumption of fruit/veg by SNAP shoppers** (\$6.871 M)

Claire commented that the largest part of the SNAP Program is the food buying assistance households receive – but SNAP includes other components, too:

SNAP Ed: Focuses on improving nutrition & healthy eating habits through a range of strategies; only able to offer SNAP Ed in areas where at least half the population is in poverty- or to SNAP eligible people (e.g. in food banks, low income schools, etc.)

SNAP E&T (BFET in WA): for SNAP participants, there are programs for job readiness, job training, and education – to lift people out of poverty and leave SNAP for “all the right reasons”

WA’s program is a national model and created a national center of excellence 2 Farm Bills ago, thanks to Rep. DelBene’s leadership.

WA Model is a partnership between DSHS, community & technical colleges & CBOs.

Baseline 100% federal funds for all states – **\$103 million/year total** (state allocations are based on a formula)

50/50: 50% federal reimbursement for non-federal spending (on allowable expenditures) --

- **25/75% federal reimbursement for tribal programs**

BFET served ~57,900 people from 2016- 2020

<https://www.dshs.wa.gov/sites/default/files/ESA/csd/documents/BFET/20->

0452ESA_BFETreport.pdf

GusNIP: DOH manages this multiyear grant which requires 1:1 local/federal match – From Farm Bill funds, WA was awarded a 4 year grant of \$6,871M (with an additional \$553,000 in federal COVID funds for GusNIP in 2021)

SNAP Eligibility

- **SNAP = food benefits** to purchase groceries

- **SNAP Income Eligibility:**

Household net income (gross income minus limited deductions for shelter, child care, utilities & some medical) = **100% FPL**

- **Populations w/ additional eligibility requirements:** ABAWDs, college students, immigrants, Native Americans

2022-23 Federal Poverty Guidelines			
# People/ Household	100% FPL	130% FPL	185% FPL
1	\$13,590	\$17,667	\$25,142
2	\$18,310	\$23,803	\$33,874
3	\$23,030	\$29,939	\$42,606
4	\$27,750	\$36,075	\$51,338
5	\$32,470	\$42,211	\$60,070
6	\$37,190	\$48,347	\$68,802
7	\$41,910	\$54,483	\$77,534
8	\$46,630	\$60,619	\$86,266

SNAP COLA for FFY 2023: avg of 12% increase (based on price of food in last 12 mos.). Yet some of the most common foods have increased in price significantly more than that: eggs, chicken, whole milk – all more than 20% increase in 2022. NEW Avg includes benefits of \$6.10 per person per day --- or \$2.03/meal per person.

To determine benefit levels (2023):

Gross income - FB: 130% FPL (higher for disabled seniors: 165% FPL) – WA's state option/categorical eligibility: 200% FPL

Deductions:

Standard: \$193 (1-4 person hhd) \$225 (5 person) \$258 (6+ person)

Housing max : \$624/ mo.

Homeless shelter max: \$166/ mo.

Minimum benefit (1-2 person households): \$23/ mo.

Max allotment (family of 3): \$740

Basic Food Info:

SNAP/Basic Food Caseload Info	Average per month:		
	SFY 2020 (July 19-June 20)	SFY 2021 (July 20-June 21)	Change
WA State Population	7,656,200	7,766,925	1.4%
Recipients as % of State Pop.	11%	12.2%	1.2%
# of Cases	489,893	536,010	9.4%
# of People Per Case	838,550	950,592	13.4%
# of Adults	553,301	615,059	11.2%
# of Children	285,249	335,533	17.6%
Children as % of Recipients	34%	35.3%	1.3%
# of People Per Case	1.7	1.8	0.1%
# of Children Per Case	0.6	0.6	0
Food Benefits Per Case *	\$243.85	\$358.91	47.2%
<i>* Temporary 15% boost + federal emergency allotments (COVID)</i>			

Claire shared that the WA caseload increase of 46,117 households (9.4%), with a large increase in the number of kids receiving food stamps. COVID relief provided a temporary 15% boost and emergency allotments. The 2018 Farm Bill required USDA to reevaluation Thrifty Food Plan, including new benefit calculations after SFY 2021.

Food Bank Programs in the Farm Bill

- **The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)**
= federal commodity foods purchased by USDA
- **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** = USDA commodity food boxes for low-income seniors (60+ yrs, 130% FPL): **FFY 2019 ~ \$223 M total**
- **Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations (FDPIR)** = USDA commodity food boxes for Native Americans --- cannot participate in FDPIR *and* SNAP

There is an array of programs that WSDA funds for Food Banks. TEFAP is the largest program that is designed to be support for farmers. The Commodity Supplemental Food Program works well in rural communities but does not have a large reach. The last program is the FDPIR program. The program is locally administered by individual tribes working directly with USDA.

USDA participation data (WA):

Pre-pandemic (2017-2019): 3,200 – 3,000 people/year; 2020: 2,765 people; 2021: 1,692 people

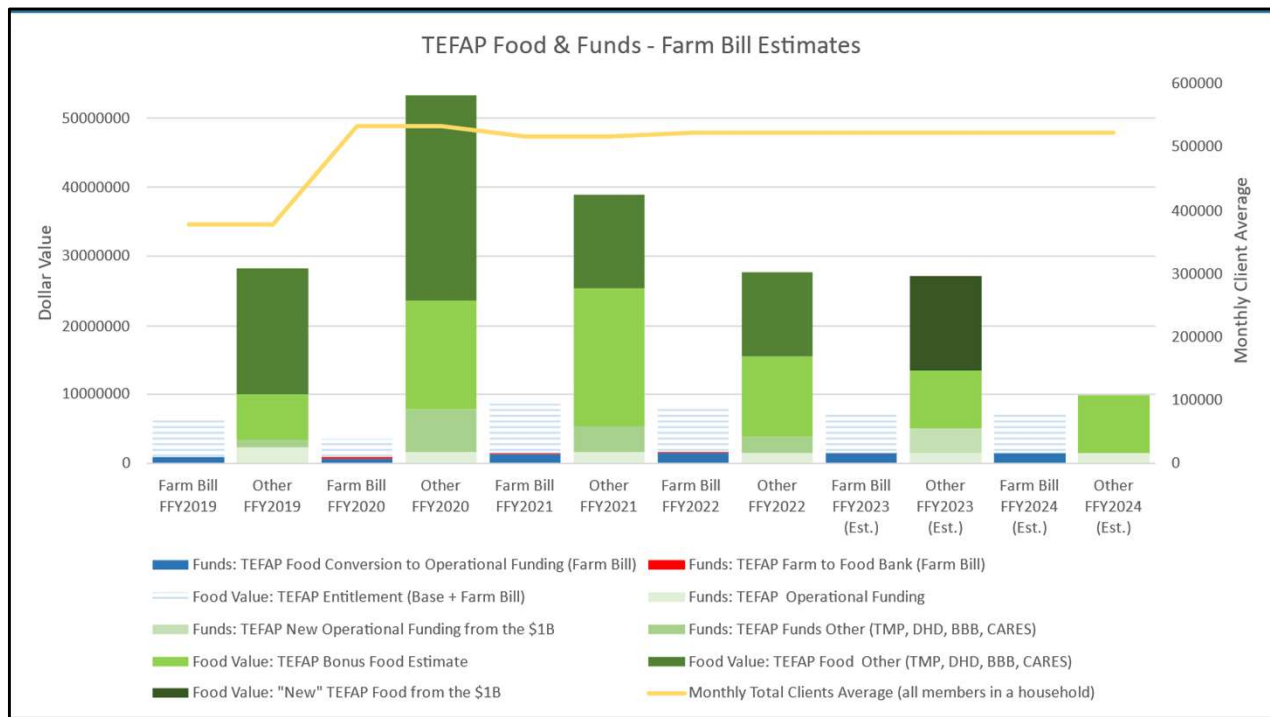
CSFP: seniors at or below 130% FPL

TEFAP is the most significant food bank program in the Farm Bill – since COVID began, there has been a significant increase in TEFAP food and funding

Washington TEFAP Food and Funding in the Farm Bill

Washington TEFAP	FFY 2019	FFY 2020	FFY 2021	FFY 2022
Food Value: TEFAP Entitlement (Farm Bill base + appropriations)*	\$5,329,664	\$2,613,860	\$7,116,081	\$6,698,753
Funds: TEFAP Food Conversion to Operational Funding	\$ 982,515	\$ 760,645	\$1,444,921	\$1,462,360
Funds: TEFAP Farm to Food Bank	\$ -	\$ 147,619	\$ 123,165	\$ 225,952

Claire shared that the numbers shared indicate money flowing to WA state. Congress can appropriate additional funding each year through the budget process. There was a huge leap from 2021 to 2022 to support the increase in demand. TEFAP funds and food increased drastically. Of the money for TEFAP, there is some amount of the food product allocation that can be converted to funding. There is also a new small pot of money for TEFAP funds farm to food bank.



Melissa Spear, with Tilth Alliance, kicked off the impact of the Farm Bill and provided an overview of conservation programs within WA state. Melissa shared that Tilth partners with NRCS and conservation programs that are funded by the Farm Bill. Tilth has received FMPP funds to connect farmers to markets and create more market capacity. Under the 2018 Farm Bill, there are \$426 billion projected outlays. As for the money that comes to WA, \$294,519,528 was designated for USDA subsidies to WA state. The key programs within this funding stream include:

- Conservation Reserve Program
- Conservation Stewardship Program
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The acres impacted in WA by the conservation programs funding has increased over the last three years, increasing from 176,836 acres in 2019 to 408,750 acres in 2021.

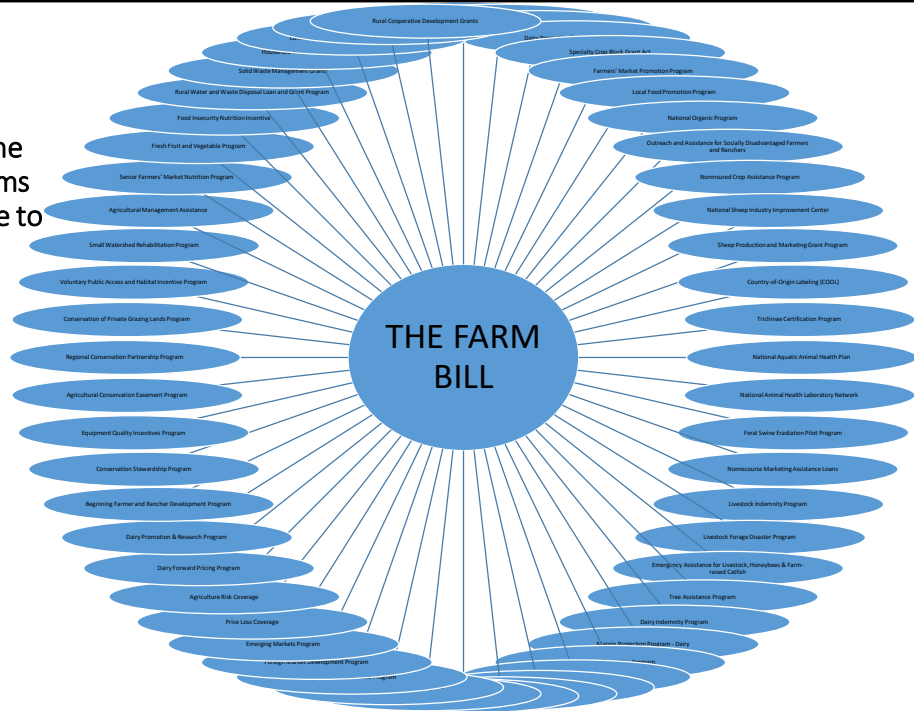
WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Impact of the Farm Bill in Washington

- Farmers: **Katherine Un, National Young Farmers Coalition**
- Food Assistance: **Babs Roberts, Dept. of Social and Health Services**
- Research: **Chad Kruger, WSU**
- Climate Smart Practices: **Chad Kruger, WSU**



The Farm Bill shapes the majority of the programs and resources available to Washington farmers.



Laura Raymond, WSDA, shared a broad overview of the programs within the Farm Bill. We've heard about 3-4 programs, but USDA has 29 agencies and offices. This is to give a sense of how large the Farm Bill is and how it impacts farmers in many ways. Washington, as a trade dependent state, the programs within the Farm Bill that focus on market access programs are key. This image includes a list of programs from the 2014 Farm Bill.



Katherine Un, with the National Young Farmer's Coalition, shared that they are a network of over 200 farmers and ranchers with supporters nationally. We focus on issues of equity and sustainability in agriculture. One of the reasons I'm here is that I live, work, and train horses in WA state. In a sense, when we are talking about the Farm Bill, we are talking about our ideas as a society of our current food and agricultural systems. There are over \$400 billion distributed that touch every aspect of a farmer's process and production. There are few processes that are so democratic. For the Farm Bill, there are listening sessions across the country. The Farm Bill is shaped by many voices collectively. The National Young Farmer's Coalition in the past identified programs that didn't exist yet and you still find areas where farmers are lacking supportive. We have advocated for a micro-loan program for beginning farmers. We've also advocated for coordinators that would help beginning farmers and ranchers to be connected to these programs.

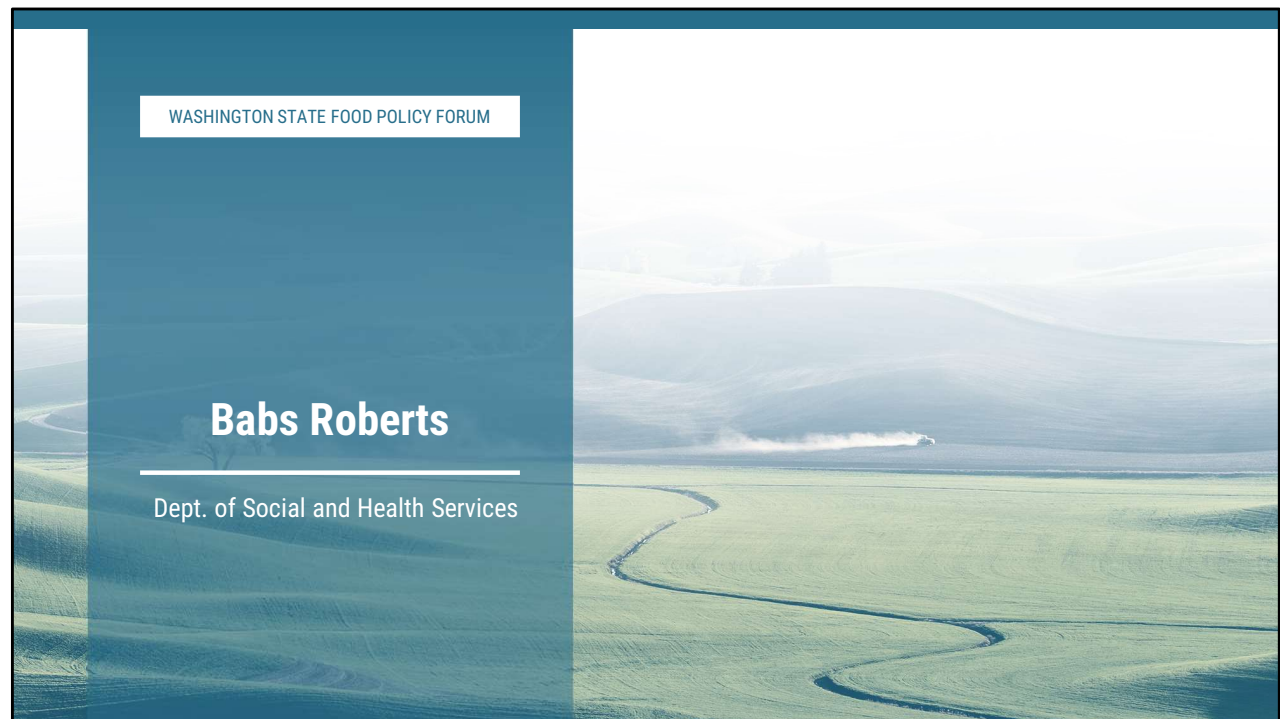
Young farmers are interested in the wellness and economic development of their communities. Recently, with the pandemic, we've seen how just how much talking about the health is needed. We saw our local and regional food systems and young farmers step in when our country wanted to reaffirm its commitment to racial equity. We saw efforts in WA led by our young farmers to support each other. But if we want to keep on supporting vibrant regional markets, we need to also address the many challenges that our young and local farmers are facing currently. These include rising costs for land, soil amendments, on-

farm improvements, and regional infrastructure. We have an opportunity through the Farm Bill to strengthen our local and regional food systems. It is about investing in programs that can be equitably accessed.

In 2022, Young Farmers ran a national survey of the biggest opportunity and challenges, surveying over 10,000 young farmers across the country. These included:

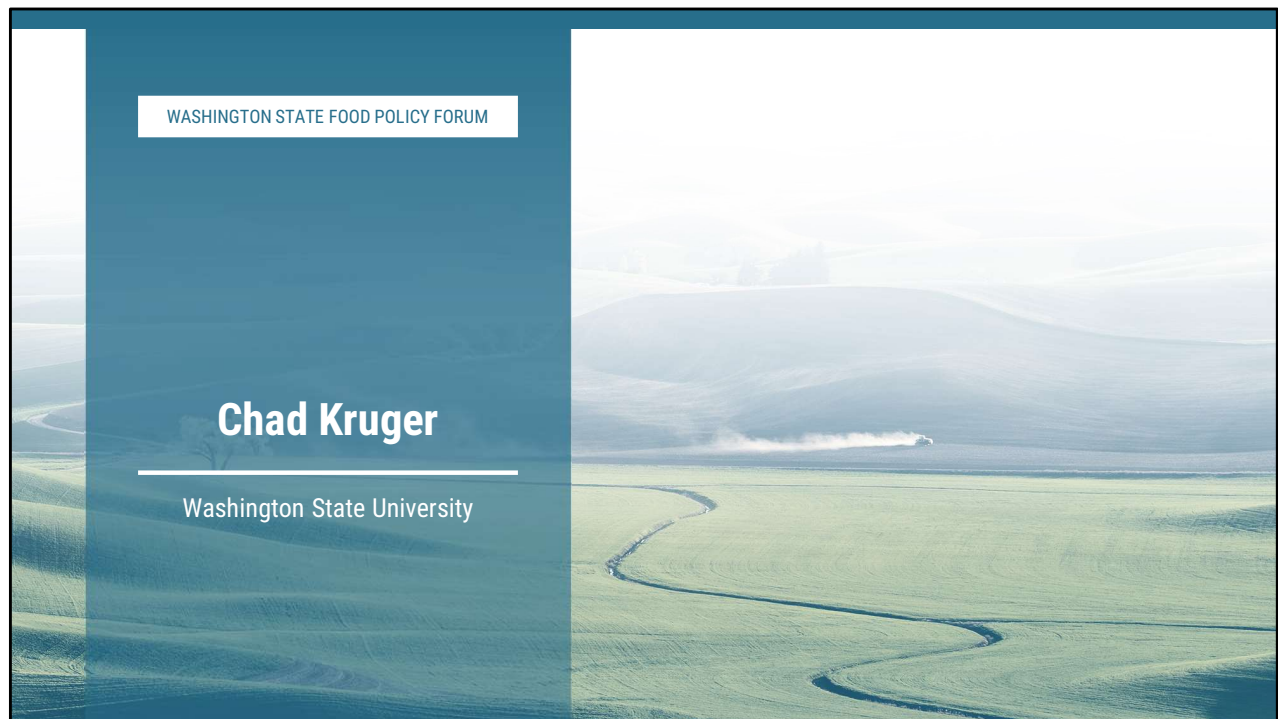
- Finding affordable land to buy and rent (59%, 65% of BIPOC farmers)
- Primary purpose of farming is about engaging in conservation or regeneration (83%)
- Relatively low numbers taking advantage of conservation programs due to burden of paperwork and process - EQIP (20%), CRP (7%)
 - 71% unaware of USDA programs that could help them
- Little incentive for those that don't own the land they are on to make improvements to the land – considerations for leasing needed

Access to the Young Farmers survey report here: <https://www.youngfarmers.org/22survey/>



Babs Roberts provided an overview those receiving basic food services in WA state. 35% on basic food in WA state are children. More than 50% have a high school diploma, 27% have college education, 10% homeless. The narrative around who is receiving food is not a good one. These are often people who are working, elderly, disabled, or children. Those people need the basic food assistance in the state. Basic food has increased by almost 10% in the last year. The impact of COVID is a big driver of that change. The impact of inflation has created even more difficulty for those living close to the margin.

One of the main reasons that the nutrition programs are so vital, is that SNAP has shown itself to be the most responsive poverty mitigation programs. It flexes the best in economic downturns. It gives benefits when they need them and moves them off when they don't. Additionally, for every dollar of SNAP that is spent, about \$1.67 is created in the economy. Those dollars go into retailers, farmers markets, etc. Everyone has a right to access nutritious and health food.



Chad Kruger provided an overview of the research investments in WSU. The USDA money within WSU flows to CAHNRS, the College of Med, and the College of Engineering. One of the few places where WSU weighs in with specific requests around policy is in Farm Bill programs. We work on priorities with agricultural industries and communities. We work with other land grant universities to set these priorities.

Chad shared that WSU receives funding from a variety of programs including both capacity grants and competitive grants. These include:

- Hatch- ag research
- Agriculture and Food Research Initiative – primary program WSU receives funding through
- Specialty Crop Research Initiative
- Organic Research and Extension Initiative
- USDA partnerships with NSF and DOE
- Climate Smart Commodities

These programs funded projects such as:

- Preventing Farmer Suicide
- Juntos: Joint Sustainable Community Project Dive4Tech
- Soil to Society

- Climate Adaptation and Mitigation Options for Fruit and Vegetable Supply Chains

The Forum's Food System Lens

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FOOD
POLICY
FORUM



This lens is found in the 2019 consensus report. The next set of speakers focus on the consensus recommendations important to elevate. The Farm Bill can play a role in advancing change in those areas. These five categories are part of the process in changing the food system. The greatest change comes from advancing change in these areas. Many speakers addressed topics in these areas during their presentations.

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

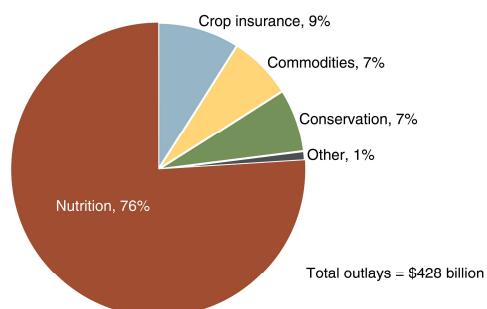
Advancing Forum Recommendations Through the Farm Bill

- Rural economic development – **Jon DeVaney, WA Tree Fruit Association**
- Nutrition and food insecurity – **Christina Wong, Northwest Harvest**
- Conservation and agricultural land protection and availability for next generation farming – **Ron, Shultz, SCC**
- Local market access, **Ariana Taylor-Stanley, National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC)**
- Impacts of climate change, **Rep. Dye, Washington State House of Representatives 9th Legislative District**



Title 6: *Rural Development*

Projected outlays under the 2018 Farm Act, 2019-2023



Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations based on Congressional Budget Office estimates.

Context

Rural and economic development investments in the Farm Bill fall under the 1% Other category.

Not all USDA activities in the rural development mission are authorized and/or funded through the Farm Bill.

Jon DeVaney, with the Washington State Tree Fruit Association, emphasized that rural development programs fall into the 1% other category, but this does not mean that there isn't a lot that can happen related to rural development. Funding may come through annual appropriations.

Title 6: *Rural Development*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Remove population cap barriers to RBCS loan guarantees and related programs for food and agriculture businesses.
- Remove population cap barriers to critical infrastructure programs (RUS/RHS) for public entities serving farm support businesses such as food packing and processing.
 - 2018 Farm Bill expanded caps for loan guarantees to 50,000.
 - Remain at 10,000 for water and sewer direct loans and grants, and 20,000 for community facilities.

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

Support efforts that increase the availability of regional-scale ag-related infrastructure (processing, storage, aggregation & distribution) to increase viability of small and mid-sized businesses, increase overall local production, and better supply a broad cross-section of Washington markets with regional products.

Identify funding and financing mechanisms for capital investment in regional food system infrastructure that is needed for rural food and ag entrepreneurship-based economic development.

Jon highlighted several Forum recommendations in relation to proposed improvements. Jon elevated that farms have specific challenges that can be addressed through rural development programs. Rural businesses are viewed as being higher risk, more subject to crop variability, and are often not the first choice of lenders. Alternative use of facilities are also not often available.

There is a national coalition known as the Specialty Crop Alliance that comes together to make Farm Bill recommendations. They are often focused on rural crop loans and housing and infrastructure loans. These are critical to the success of rural agriculture. Defining what is rural is also one of the biggest challenges. In some cases, rural is viewed as a function. You can get financial assistance to build farm worker houses wherever there are farm workers. Some however are subject to population caps. Is rural an activity or is a definition of population density? We are recommending to tie it more directly to functions.

Title 10: *Horticulture*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Maintain and expand funding for the Local Agriculture Market Program, established in the 2018 Farm Bill and incorporating four sub-programs:
 - Farmers Market Promotion Program – supporting farm to consumer, restaurant, and institutional sales.
 - Local Food Promotion Program – assists intermediaries that process, store, distribute, or aggregate local and regional food.
 - Regional Food Systems Partnerships – supports planning and implementation of local food systems.
 - Value-Added Producer Grant – supports planning and working capital for producers developing added value through new products or processes. (Energy)

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

Build statewide capacity to coordinate and share information among local projects so that we can build complimentary regional systems that work as one whole statewide system.

Climate Change:

Promote research and programmatic investments in agricultural viability, resiliency, and market development.

Jon shared that what the [Washington State Tree Fruit Association](#) does as economic development is often tied to horticulture. In terms of climate change, promoting research and investment that addresses viability and resiliency in our food system- these programs are currently classified as horticulture programs.

Each year, there is only several million allocated to these programs, but we have identified this as a key area to broadly support food systems.

Title 4: *Nutrition*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Remove barriers to participating in SNAP for critical populations
 - Low-income college students (S.2515/H.R.1919)
 - Income eligible green card holders (H.R. 5227)
 - Eliminate the asset limits test- families with children, low-wage workers, seniors, people with disabilities (S.1809/H.R.3822)
 - End the prohibition on simultaneous use of SNAP and FDIPIR
- Modernize SNAP benefits adequacy and expanding accessibility (S.2192/H.R. 4077)
- Provide resources to expand SNAP Match Programs (GusNIP)
- Improve TEFAP to support local purchasing and increase access

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

2020 Recommendation: Explore the use of state resources to maximize participation and access to nutrition assistance programs.

2020 Recommendation: Address barriers to accepting and accessing benefits.

Christina Wong, representing Northwest Harvest, highlighted the consensus recommendations most relevant to proposed improvements and changes to the nutrition title that would create opportunities for the state to consider. These recommendations acknowledge that SNAP makes significant bottom line differences for our producers at farmers markets. These recommendations are further built from a few sources, one being from priorities that NW Harvest and the Anti-Hunger Nutrition Coalition have been developing. We have a consortium called the Western Region Anti-Hunger consortium that also includes Idaho, Alaska, and Nevada. We are talking about recommendations that are built from an area of expertise with an eye towards bipartisan support.

The first category is tied to the recommendation around what can we set up for our state to consider to maximize participation and access. This include removing barriers to SNAP. Some marker bills currently in front of congress include removing barriers for college students. This is recognizing that post-secondary students are challenged by housing and food costs. If you have the opportunity to go to college, your poverty and ability to count on family support is lesser so than other students. The lift the bar act would further lift the bar for eligible income green-card residents to access SNAP. This also address accessibility to the SNAP program for indigenous populations. From the WA food study, 5 out of 7 indigenous respondents were categorized as experiencing low food security.

Modernizing the SNAP program would propose several policy changes that would increase the benefits of SNAP. The average is just \$2 per meal. When you take into consideration for those that only qualify for the minimum SNAP benefit, their benefit is just \$23 per month. One of the proposals is to change the benefits of SNAP to the next level. Even that modest increase would not be enough, but it would be a significant change. For the GusNIP grant, it requires a dollar-for-dollar nonfederal match. We've been discussing increasing the baseline funding for GusNIP. The last focus area is around improvements to TEFAP. There is a bill that is currently under development in response to feedback from food banks with concerns about federal commodities that are not meeting nutrition or culturally responsive food needs.

More of WA's GusNIP data/reports are available here (bottom of the page):
www.doh.wa.gov/fvip

Title 4: *Nutrition*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Create a permanent, values-based Fresh Produce Procurement Partnership Program, funded at \$100 million per year
 - As in the Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act
- Direct USDA to apply a values-based approach to the procurement of food for schools
 - As in the Kids Eat Local Act
- Increase mandatory funding for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to \$50 million per year
 - As in the Farmers Market & Food Bank Local Revitalization Act
- Restore Community Food Projects grant program funding to \$9 million per year

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

2019 Recommendations:

Improve the capacity and purchasing ability of schools and other institutions (child care, senior meal programs, food banks, hospitals, universities, etc.) to buy and use Washington farm products, including funding incentives.

Increase purchases of Washington farm products with procurement policies and better visibility and promotion of Washington products in the marketplace.

Ariana Taylor-Stanley provided an overview of reasons that programs are not having the impact they should. This is often due to funding not meeting demands and a lack of access. Therefore, Ariana shared that NSAC supports increasing funding for LAMP. We would like to see funding increase to \$75 with turnkey grants to simplify application requirements for smaller grants from a list of types.

Ariana further shared about additional local market access programs authorized in the Nutrition title. These include:

- Create a permanent, values-based Fresh Produce Procurement Partnership Program, funded at \$100 million per year
 - As in the Fresh Produce Procurement Reform Act
 - Build on the positive elements of the first two rounds of the Farmers to Families Food Box Program and the AMS Local Food Purchasing Assistance Program - pandemic response programs not currently authorized by the farm bill
- Direct USDA to apply a values-based approach to the procurement of food for schools

- As in the Kids Eat Local Act
- Increase mandatory funding for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program to \$50 million per year
 - As in the Farmers Market & Food Bank Local Revitalization Act
- Restore Community Food Projects grant program funding to \$9 million per year

Farm Bill Summit participants expressed interest in hearing further about the advantages/disadvantages for programs like LAMP and competitive grants vs. state allocations to allow states to make locally-informed & coordinated grants.

Title 2: *Conservation*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Increase funding for Conservation Technical Assistance
- Increase funding for working lands conservation programs, especially the Conservation Stewardship Program
 - Lost funding in the last farm bill (only 1 in 4 CSP apps funded)
- Hone existing conservation programs such as the Conservation Stewardship Program to specifically support climate-friendly farming practices
 - As in the Agriculture Resilience Act

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

2019 Recommendation: Ensure agricultural adaptation resources are well coordinated, funded, and staffed to support farmers in making informed business decisions in a changing climate.

2019 Recommendation: Support funding for tools to protect agricultural land from conversion to other uses and assist farmers in transferring and accessing land.

Ron Shultz commented that the critical ingredient in local food production is farms and functioning ecosystems.

Title 2: *Conservation*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Increase the pace of ag land protection through ACEP-ALE.
- Help small-scale and historically marginalized producers access USDA programs.
- Improve NRCS program application processes and increase transparency.
- Make financing farmland more accessible and affordable.
- Provide incentives for regenerative ag practices.

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

2019 Recommendation: Enact policies that reflect the significance of protecting agricultural land, communities, and infrastructure, and place a high priority on this goal.

Ron shared that there is a need to increase accessibility to the range of programs, specifically targeting historically marginalized producers. There is also a need for regenerative ag practices to be funded, such as no-till to minimize disturbances of top-soil, organic annual cropping, etc. These are often not covered under NRCS programs and should be expanded through the Farm Bill.

Title 7: *Research*

Proposed improvements to the Farm Bill

- Provide \$100M/year in mandatory funding for the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Program
- Prioritize research funding for BIPOC-serving institutions

Related to the following Forum Consensus Recommendations:

2019 Recommendation: Promote research and programmatic investments in agricultural viability, resiliency, and market development.

Ariana shared that the Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education Programs is a one-of-a-kind program that supports on-farm farmer driven research. All funding given to this program was allocated solely on an annual basis. Additionally, the wide array of research dollars are disproportionately funding institutions that are majority white-serving. There is need to uplift the contributions BIPOC communities have made to resilient farming practices. This aligns with the research goals of the forum.

Foster resilience in the face of a changing climate to ensure long-term food security

- USDA Climate Smart Initiative
 - Executive Order (E.O.) 14008 Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad
 - USDA has nearly 100,000 employees at more than 4,500 locations across the United States and abroad with a diverse range of roles, responsibilities, and backgrounds
 - A full draft of the strategic plan was submitted to OMB in September

Related to the following Forum 2020 Consensus Recommendations:

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

Support implementation programs and resources that provide immediate financial assistance to farmers to promote resilience in the face of a changing climate and ensure long-term food security.

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.

Washington agencies and organizations should continue preparations for near-term and long-term planning and implementation of programs related to the climate change recommendations outlined by the Impacts of Climate Change Team in the June 2019 report to the Legislature.

Representative Dye shared that there is good news for land and climate. From my experience, I've been a sharecropper and a third-generation wheat farmer. We've survived extended drought, La Nina's, El Nino's, atmospheric rivers, etc. According to a report released from WSU climate center, we can expect dry yields to improve. There will be more arable land that will make existing farm yields better. Rep. Dye commented that 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.

ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Five Vulnerabilities:

- Decreased Agricultural Productivity
- Threat to Water Quantity and Quality
- Disproportionate Impacts on Vulnerable Communities
- Shocks Due to Extreme Climate Events
- Stress on Infrastructure & Public Lands

Plans for the following Climate Related Contingencies:

- **Reductions in crop and livestock production.**
- **Reduced soil quality**
- **Increased pest and disease pressure**
- **Protecting pollinator health**
- **Increased crop insurance**

ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Food Policy Goals to Consider:

- Secure Water Supplies for Agriculture
- Assure State Cost Share Funding for Participation in USDA Climate Adaptation Programs
- Familiarize State Agencies of Opportunities at USDA
- Support work at WSU that provides technical research to USDA

Funding Opportunities from USDA:

- **IIJA: Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act**
- **IRA: Inflation Reduction Act**
- **\$20 Billion added to USDA Programs to be implemented in 5 years**

ACTION PLAN FOR CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Five Adaptation Actions:

- Build Resilience Across Landscapes
- Soil and Forest Health
- Increase Outreach and Education to Promote Adoption of Practices
- Broaden Access to Climate Data
- Increase Research on Climate-smart Practices
- Leverage Climate Hubs to deliver Climate Adaptation Science & Tech Tools

Recommended Actions:

- Fund Soil Health Grants
- Cross Agency Collaborations
- Accessibility to Vulnerable and historically disadvantaged
- Develop Climate Hubs Technologies
- Forest Hazardous Fuels treatments
- Active Forest Management

Rep. Dye commented that the USDA is tasked with getting the funding out to the land within 5 years to adapt and reinvigorate American farms. By investing in needed water shortage and need infrastructure, we can spawn reversal from urban economics to a more balanced economy.