

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Washington State Food Policy Forum

FEBRUARY 5, 2026



Agenda

- **Welcome & Get Settled** (10 min.)
- **Updates and Announcements** (10 min.)
 - Membership Updates
 - Water Recommendations Cover Letter
- **Progress Toward Forum 2025-2027 Priorities** (90 min.)
 - Teams will share ideas they are wrestling with and learnings from applying the Forum's Equity Filter to proposed actions
- **Break** (10 min.)
- **Legislative Session Updates** (30 min.)
 - Update on food security related bills and debrief of the December 5 and January 13 AGNR Committee work sessions
 - Round robin legislative updates from Forum members
- **WSDA Support on Agricultural Viability Study** (20 min.)
- **Closing Reflections & Adjourn** (10 min.)

Purpose & Objectives

- Discuss intersections of the Forum's work with statewide programmatic efforts and the policy landscape.
- Review topical team progress on advancing 2025-27 topical priorities and share insights from applying equity considerations to proposed actions.

Updates and Announcements

Membership Updates

- Initiative for Rural Innovation & Stewardship (IRIS) – VACANT
- Northwest Harvest – Anna Nepomuceno is Jamielyn Wheeler's alternate
- WA State Dairy Federation – Dan Wood retired
- WA Association of Wheat Growers – KayDee Gilkey transitioned from alternate to full member

Water Recommendations Cover Letter

- If you have not yet voted, please submit your vote now!

Progress Toward Forum 2025-2027 Priorities

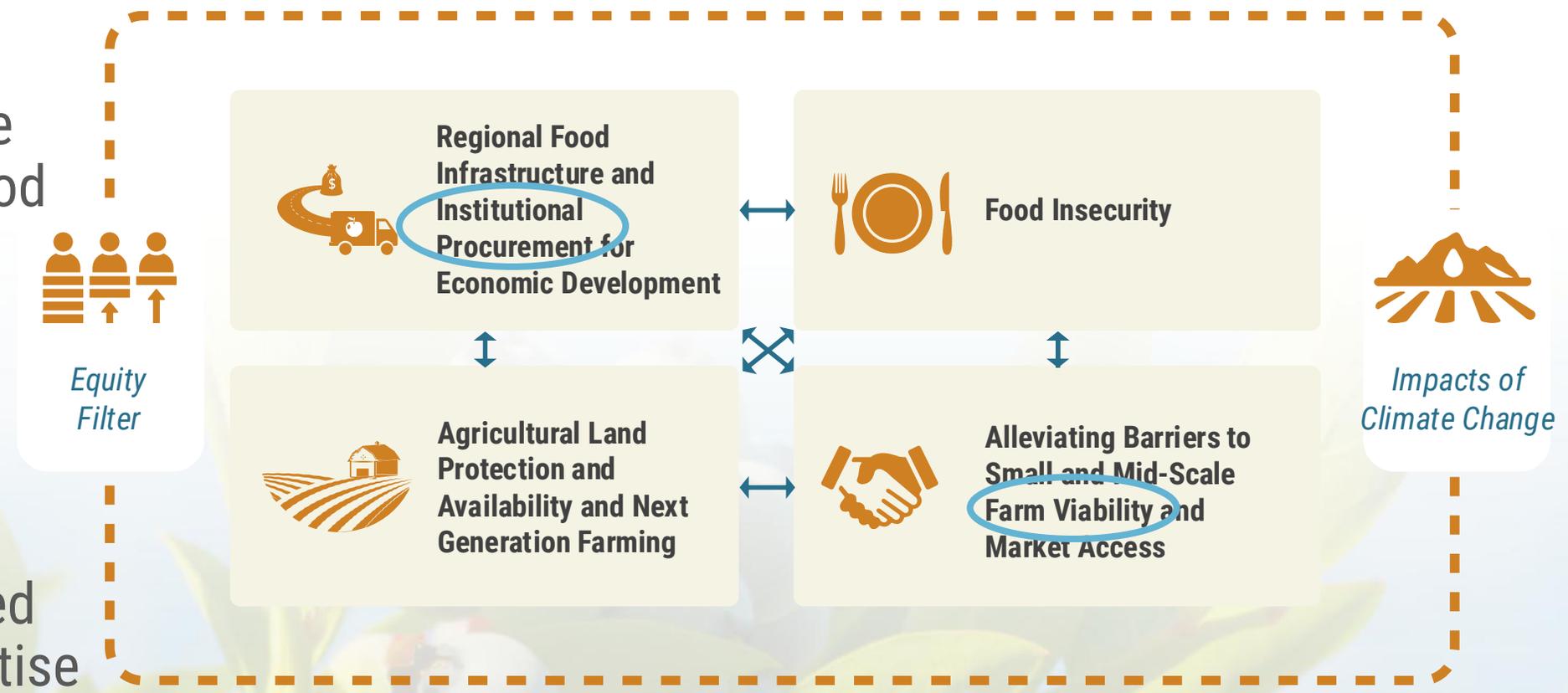
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Priority Setting Process Recap April-October

- Multi-phase planning process launched to guide 2025–2027 work
- Activities included:
 - Member survey
 - Opt-in calls
 - Forum-wide discussions
 - State of the State presentations
 - Small team meetings
- Goal: Identify and prioritize food system topics for focused action for the next two years and for inclusion in the October legislative report

Relevance of the Food Systems Lens

- Planning reinforced the relevance of the Forum's five food system components
- Made some important refinements
- Teams convened based on expertise



2025-2027 Forum Topical Priorities

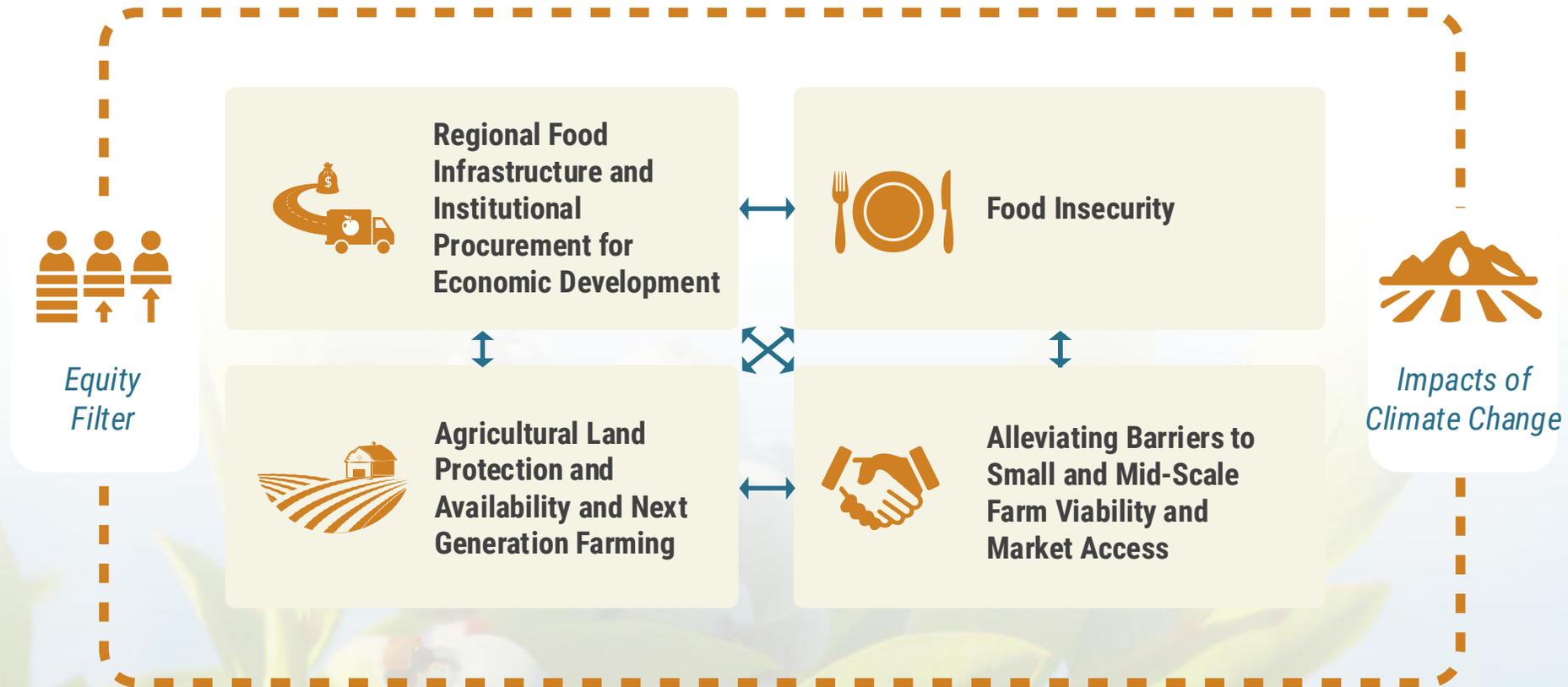
Team Name	2025-27 Topical Priorities
Impacts of Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supply for Agriculture and Food Production • Climate Resilience for Agriculture and Food Production
Agricultural Land Protection & Availability & Next Generation Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succession Planning and Incentives
Alleviating Barriers to Small & Mid-Scale Farm Viability & Market Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advanced Technical Expertise and Knowledge Transfer
Regional Food Infrastructure & Institutional Procurement for Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-Private Partnership Models for Infrastructure Finance • Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Coordination
Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food System Coordination for Food Security • Eligibility and Access for Food Assistance Programs

Advancing 2025-27 Priorities November-January

Team	Impacts of Climate Change	Food Insecurity	Ag Land Protection & Availability & Next Gen Farming	Small & Mid-Scale Farm Viability & Market Access	Regional Food Infrastructure & Institutional Procurement for Economic Dev
<p>2025-27 Priority Topics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Supply for Agriculture & Food Production Climate Resilience for Agriculture & Food Production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Food System Coordination for Food Security Eligibility & Access for Food Assistance Program 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Succession Planning & Incentives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Technical Expertise and Knowledge Transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public-Private Partnership Models for Infrastructure Finance Strategic Infrastructure Planning & Coordination
<p>Priority Idea(s) for Action</p>	<p>Re-submit the 2025 water recs accompanied by a cover letter requesting the legislature to 1) convene a policy work session and 2) direct agencies to develop implementation recommendations</p>	<p>Demonstrate support of HB 2236 through a letter that names consensus recommendations regarding food security</p>	<p>Conduct research to explore succession planning models; Host a learning session for the Forum</p>	<p>Develop a document to communicate to legislators and the public the importance of small/mid-scale farms + impacts of underinvestment.</p>	<p>Document & analyze effective public-private partnership (PPP) models to identify replicable elements; increase public-sector understanding of food-system PPP opportunities.</p>
<p>Potential Forum Role(s)</p>	<p>Amplify & reinforce existing recs; Educate policy makers; Communication; Convene stakeholders</p>	<p>Bridge sectors (facilitate coordination); Communication</p>	<p>Conduct research & analysis; Facilitate learning session</p>	<p>Conduct research & analysis; Communication</p>	<p>Conduct research & analysis; Communication</p>

Topical Teams Status Report

- Each team will have **10 min** to report out on progress and **5 min** for questions
- Team's that applied the Equity Filter will share insights and questions that emerged
- **Please ask clarifying questions, make suggestions, and flag concerns. Your input now will help shape the team's next steps.**



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Forum Topical Team Report-Outs

February 5, 2026



2025 Topical Teams & Priorities

Team Name	2025-27 Topical Priorities
Impacts of Climate Change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Supply for Agriculture and Food Production • Climate Resilience for Agriculture and Food Production
Agricultural Land Protection and Availability and Next Generation Farming	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Succession Planning and Incentives
Alleviating Barriers to Small and Mid-Scale Farm Viability and Market Access	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Assistance and Capacity Building
Regional Food Infrastructure and Institutional Procurement for Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public-Private Partnership Models for Infrastructure Finance • Strategic Infrastructure Planning and Coordination
Food Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food System Coordination for Food Security • Eligibility and Access for Food Assistance Programs

Impacts of Climate Change

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Team Roster	
Caleb Gwerder	WA Farm Bureau
Chad Kruger	Washington State University - Office of Research
Chris Cary	Food Northwest
Chris Elder	King County Dept of Natural Resources & Parks
Chris Voigt	WA State Potato Commission
Hilary Aten	WA State Conservation Commission
Jon DeVaney	WA State Tree Fruit Association
Judy Warnick	WA State Legislature
Laura Raymond	WA State Dept of Agriculture
Linda Neunzig	Snohomish County Conservation & Natural Resources
Melissa Spear	Tilth Alliance
Rebecca Saldaña	WA State Legislature
Richard Conlin	Conlin Columbia Partnership for Cities

Team's Focus is on Elevating Existing Recommendations

- **Priority topic:** Water Supply for Agriculture and Food Production
- **Priority action:** Elevate the Forum's [2025 Water recommendations](#)
- **Forum role:** Educate policymakers and communicate the urgency and severity of issues at the intersection of water, climate, and food



Summary of January Discussions

- **Update on upcoming agency efforts on Western WA water supply-and-demand forecasting**
- **Recent flooding events**
 - Reinforced climate-driven shifts in water timing and underscored the need for proactive communication with policymakers
 - Highlighted gaps in emergency response
 - Topics noted for future discussion: long-term strategies such as improving water capture and storage—using ag lands, on-farm ponds, and land-use tools—to retain excess winter flows for summer needs
- **Application of the Equity Filter**
 - The team began applying the equity filter to the proposed action and will continue the process during their next meeting

Layered Approach for Elevating the 2025 Recommendations

Targeted Legislative Education via Policy Work Session: Create shared understanding & urgency among legislators that water is food system issue and critical to long-term food security

Positioning for Action Through Agency-Level Next Steps: Move water recs towards implementation without asking for immediate funding; Request the legislature direct Ecology, in partnership with WSDA and SCC, to develop recommendations for implementation

Coordinated Messaging for Legislative Outreach: Saturate the legislature & agency partners with consistent, credible framing that climate, water, and food security are inseparable

Current action: Re-submit the 2025 report to the legislature, accompanied by a cover letter that places the recommendations within the current context and makes two specific requests for advancing the recommendations

Impacts of Climate Change Team: Next Steps

- Get consensus vote on whether to submit the water recommendations letter to the Legislature
- If invited, begin preparing for a policy work session
- Complete application of the Equity Filter for the team's action

Food Insecurity

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Team Roster

Aaron Czyzewski	Food Lifeline
Anna Nepomuceno	Northwest Harvest
Brice Montgomery	WA State Dept of Social & Health Services
Chris Voigt	WA State Potato Commission
Claire Lane	Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
Diane Dempster	Clark County Food System Council
Jennifer Otten	University of Washington - Food Systems, Nutrition, & Health
Katie Rains	WA State Dept of Agriculture
Kyle Unland	WA State Dept of Health
Laura Raymond	WA State Dept of Agriculture
Leanne Eko	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Marie Spiker	University of Washington - Food Systems, Nutrition, & Health

Priority Topic and Actions

Priority Topic: Coordination for Food Security

Priority action: Distribute a letter to the legislature to demonstrate the Forum's alignment with HB 2238 by naming consensus recommendations that relate to the hunger safety net and food security more broadly.

Current Status

- Letter has achieved consensus and has been distributed to the Legislature (Lead Budget Committee Members, Leadership in House and Senate, and Rep. Reeves.)

January 22 Food Insecurity Call Discussion

Immediate next steps:

- **Plan a mid-session or post-cutoff debrief (session is anticipated to end on March 12) to discuss:**
 - Which bills survived
 - What they mean for various facets of food security
 - Where state and federal efforts (e.g., Farm Bill) stand
 - Immediate implications (positive and negative) for the Forum's recommendations
- **Support Relationship-Based Legislative Outreach (individual contributions)**
 - Coordinate informal, non-Forum organized joint legislative visits pairing agriculture voices with hunger/food security voices (e.g., Jon D., Chris V., Claire, and Aaron) to strengthen shared messaging around SNAP, farm bill concerns, and state food security legislation.

Longer-term next steps:

- Let the dust settle after legislative session ends, then evaluate how the legislative outcomes will affect the Forum's recommendations and understand where progress advanced, stalled, or reversed.

Ag Land Protection & Availability & Next Generation Farming

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Team Roster

Addie Candib	American Farmland Trust
Caleb Gwerder	WA Farm Bureau
Chris Elder	King County
Heather Wendt	WA Association of Conservation Districts
Hilary Aten	WA State Conservation Commission
Senator Judy Warnick	WA State Legislature
KayDee Gilkey	WA Association of Wheat Growers
Representative Mary Dye	WA State Legislature
Mary Embleton	King Conservation District
Nate Lewis	WA Farmland Trust

Clarified Proposal and Desired Actions

- **Conduct research to explore succession planning models that have been successful in other states and different structures for transition** (e.g., property tax reductions, incentives for lenders to participate in farmland transition programs, identify various methods of technical support).
- With information compiled from conducting research, host a learning session for the Forum that identifies **what information is needed, what's already available, and why succession planning is a critical issue.**
- Equip farmers with resources to support succession planning and uplift the challenges of intergenerational transition planning.

Equity Insights: Who Benefits & Who May Be Left Out

Likely Beneficiaries

- Producers seeking clearer pathways for succession (e.g., familial, non-familial, employee ownership)
- Beginning farmers and incoming operators to provide opportunities for everyone who wants to farm and have access to farmland

Potentially Burdened

- Producers not successfully engaged

At Risk of Exclusion:

- Long-tenured farm employees and employee-owned farms

Key Considerations:

- Economic scale and context should guide the approach (e.g., what may be feasible for a large farm may not be practical for a small farm)
- Employee involvement in succession is often overlooked and real-world examples of non-familial transitions are often lacking

Perspectives to Consider

- Consult land trusts, land linking programs, and ag expos to identify resources they utilize and who the resources serve.
- Evaluate how economic changes in the ag viability sector may impact existing resources and programs
- Identify succession planning resources that are not distributed widely to increase awareness and accessibility for different communities.

Questions that Emerged from Applying the Equity Filter

- What are the unique succession planning needs for different scales of production?
- What are the inequities affecting non-familial succession?
- How can succession planning and intergenerational transition resources be shared to encourage broad access?
- How will this team identify who does not have access to existing resources?

Next Steps

What the team will produce:

1. **An analysis of state transition models & various structures for transition that explores:**
 - Property tax reductions
 - Incentives for lenders
 - Technical Assistance
2. **Plan and host shared learning session for the Forum**

Immediate next steps:

- Continue to discuss existing gaps in research this team is already aware of
- Develop parameters for research that will be conducted and identify the target audience for disseminating research findings.
- Identify who has capacity to conduct research and assign roles

Regional Food Infrastructure & Institutional Procurement for Economic Development

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Team Roster	
Aslan Meade	Thurston Economic Development Council
Brian Estes	LINC Foods
Chris Cary	Food Northwest
Chris Voigt	WA State Potato Commission
Diane Dempster	Clark County Food System Council
Jon DeVaney	WA Tree Fruit Association
Jen Otten	University of Washington - Food Systems, Nutrition, & Health
Laura Raymond	WA State Dept of Agriculture
Leanne Eko	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
Linda Neunzig	Snohomish County Conservation & Natural Resources
Marie Spiker	University of Washington - Food Systems, Nutrition, & Health
Mary Embleton	King Conservation District
PJ Cawley	Charlie's Produce
Tim Crosby	Thread Fund

Clarified Proposal & Desired Outcomes

- Document and elevate effective public–private partnership (PPP) models in food-system infrastructure—> examples where public, private, and nonprofit partners needed one another to deliver a clearly articulated public good.
- Capture both successes and struggles. Avoid “success bias” by examining obstacles successful projects overcame and why some models struggled.
- Increase public-sector understanding of food-system PPP opportunities.

Equity Insights: Who Benefits & Who May Be Left Out

Likely Beneficiaries

- Communities broadly (jobs, economic growth)
- Producers and food businesses across sizes (e.g., very small, minority- or women-owned businesses like Hot Babes Hot Sauce)

Potentially Burdened

- Neighborhoods near industrial sites: EJ risks (noise, traffic, pollutants) without thoughtful siting and permitting.

Key Barriers Identified

- Capital access & lending barriers for small, mid-scale, or historically underserved producers/operators.
- Barriers navigating systems & programs—> complex grants, permitting, PPP processes.

At Risk of Exclusion: Scale Mismatch

- Large PPP initiatives may unintentionally favor ambitious, high-capital projects, sidelining small producers/businesses.
- Small grants (e.g., “box truck-scale”) do not match multi-million-dollar facility needs.
- Yet good examples exist: e.g., Thurston Ag Park supports very small businesses and another effort plans to serve ~100 livestock raisers, many very small.

Equity Insights: Users vs. Operators + Role of TA

Considering a Distinction

- Users (producers, food businesses) and owner/operators (entities running facilities) face different equity barriers; the group agreed materials may need to treat them separately.

Barriers for Prospective Operators

- Many operators, especially small, mid-scale, or historically underserved, lack access to feasibility expertise, networks, and technical know-how needed to enter infrastructure projects.

Role of TA & Business Planning

- Technical assistance and business planning are critical for both equity and viability of infrastructure projects.

Questions that Emerged from Applying the Equity Filter

1. How do we avoid “success bias” and ensure we learn from projects that faced obstacles or failed to meet their goals?
2. Should our materials clearly separate the perspectives of “users” (producers/food businesses) from “owners/operators” of facilities so equity impacts, needs, and policy asks are distinct and understandable to legislators and staff?
3. How should our project identify, document, and address the key barriers—limited capital access, knowledge and technical-capacity gaps, and challenges navigating public programs—that prevent small, mid-size, and historically underserved producers and prospective operators from fully participating in public–private infrastructure partnerships?

Alleviating Barriers to Small & Mid-scale Farm Viability and Market Access

WASHINGTON STATE FOOD POLICY FORUM

Team Roster

Addie Candib	American Farmland Trust
Anna Nepomuceno	Northwest Harvest
Brian Estes	LINC Foods
Caleb Gwerder	WA Farm Bureau
Colleen Donovan	WA State Farmers Market Association
Diane Dempster	Clark County Food System Council
Jon DeVaney	WA Tree Fruit Association
Laura Raymond	WA State Dept of Agriculture
Marcia Ostrom	Washington State University - Food Systems
Mary Embleton	King Conservation District
Melissa Spear	Tilth Alliance
Nate Lewis	WA Farmland Trust

The Issue We Aim to Address

Core problem:

- Barriers to **small and mid-scale farm viability and market access**, especially around **advanced technical expertise and knowledge transfer**.

Key focus:

- Small and mid-scale farmers who are or seek to be **commercially viable**.
- Possible emphasis on **mid-career farms (6–10 years)** needing to scale or adapt.
- Limited visibility into **ag support services**—a critical but often overlooked gap.

Priority Topic:

Advanced Technical Expertise and Knowledge Transfer

Rationale:

Traditional "technical assistance" no longer captures the complexity of support required by today's maturing small and mid-scale farms

The Forum's Role

What Forum *does not* do:

- Deliver technical assistance or direct services.

What we *can* uniquely contribute:

- **Frame the issue clearly** for legislators and the public (similar approach as climate+water team).
- **Educate policymakers** at state and county levels on:
 - Importance of small/mid-scale farms + impacts of underinvestment.
 - Resource gaps for farms beyond startup.
 - External pressures: market shifts, disasters (e.g., flooding), and budget cuts.
 - Link between farm viability and **food security, hunger, rural economic health.**

Why This Matters Now

- **Current pressures include:**
 - Cuts to programs like the **Local Food System Infrastructure Grant** and **direct marketing support**.
 - **Market volatility** requiring farms to adapt quickly.
 - **Disaster impacts** that strain already limited resources.
 - Reduced investment at **state and federal** levels → shrinking support ecosystem.
- **Without action:**
 - Small/mid-scale farms struggle to remain viable.
 - Broader implications for food system resilience and rural communities.

Next Steps

What the team will produce:

- A **1–2 page problem statement** clearly articulating:
 - The issue area
 - Key challenges
 - Coming after that: Targeted recommendations

Immediate next steps:

- Finalize the definition and scope of the issue area.
- Gather examples, data, and stories to ground the problem statement.

*** Break until 3pm ***

**Next Up:
Legislative Session
Ag Viability Study**

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Legislative Session Updates

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Round Robin Legislative Updates

Share updates relevant to the Forum's goals:

- 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.
- 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.

Directions:

If you have a legislative update relevant to the Forum's work around food and/or farm issues, we ask that:

- **Forum members**, please raise your hand to share verbally or share your update in the chat
- **Non-Forum members**, please provide your update in the chat

December 5 House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Work Session

- Chris teed up specific discussion of the Forum's work characterizing challenges, opportunities, recommendations, and actions to advance recommendations.
- Dani named consensus recommendations relevant to statewide food security strategy conversations.

Forum Presentation

- The Food Policy Forum was invited to give a 10-minute presentation with 5 minutes for Q&A
- Dani Madrone (SCC) and Chris Elder (King County & Forum Admin Chair) presented

January 13 House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee Work Session

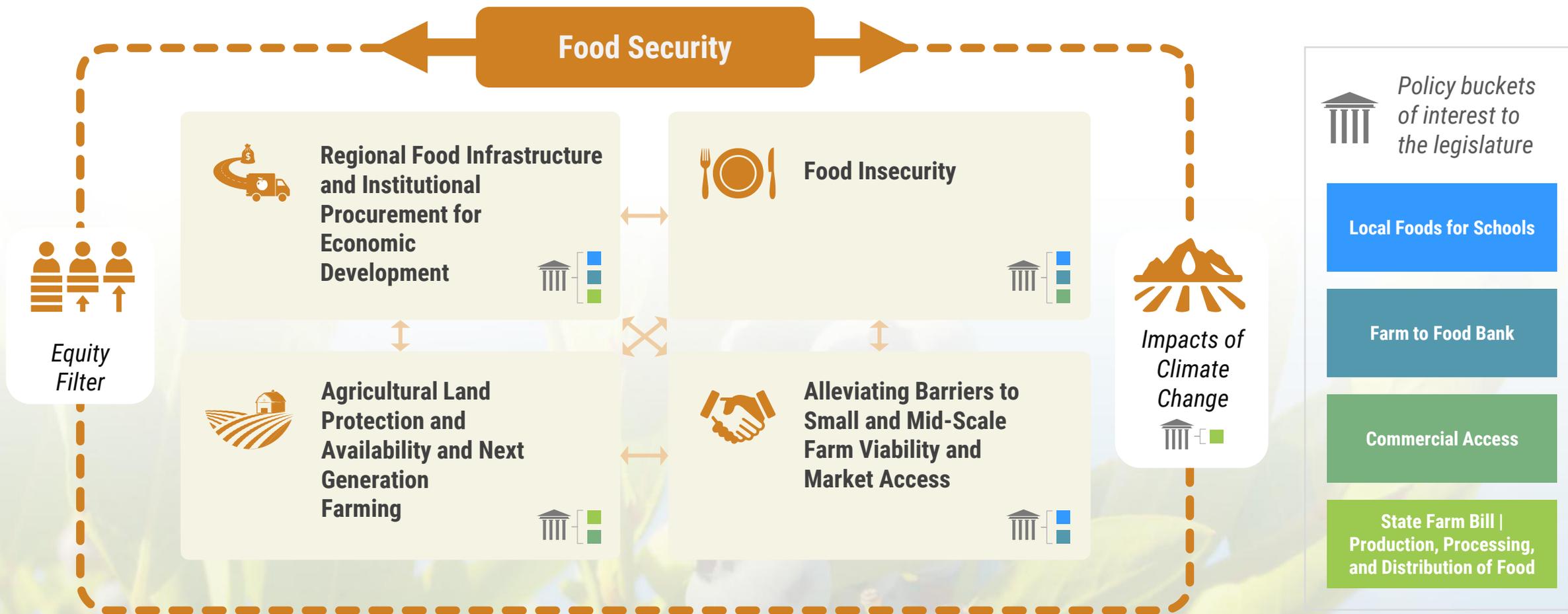
- Shared ways for the Legislature to engage with the Forum including:
 - Attending Forum meetings as an observer
 - Engaging in small group or topic-focused discussions
- Identified the intersection of Rep. Reeves policy buckets (**Food Security Strategy, Local Food for Schools, Farm to Food Bank, Commercial Access, and Farm Bill**) and the Forum's food system lens.
- Provided an overview of the Forum's 2019-2025 consensus recommendations that relate to the five policy buckets.

Forum Presentation

- The Food Policy Forum was invited to give a 10-minute presentation
- Dani Madrone (SCC), Chris Elder (King County & Forum Admin Chair), and Jon DeVaney (WA Tree Fruit Association & Forum Admin Vice Chair) presented

Food Systems Change Through the Forum’s Five Recommendations Topics

There are many points of interconnection between 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.



Food Security Related Bills

- **HB 2238** – Statewide Food Security Strategy (in rules)
- **HB 2297** – Commercial Grocery Access (Rep. Darya Farivar) (had a hearing, scheduled for exec session)
- **HB 2369** – Farm to School (not progressing)
- **HB 2463** – Washington Farmers Feeding Families (not progressing)
- **HB 2616** – State Farm Bill (will be heard in consumer protection and business)

WSDA Support on Ag Viability Study

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Agricultural Viability in Washington State

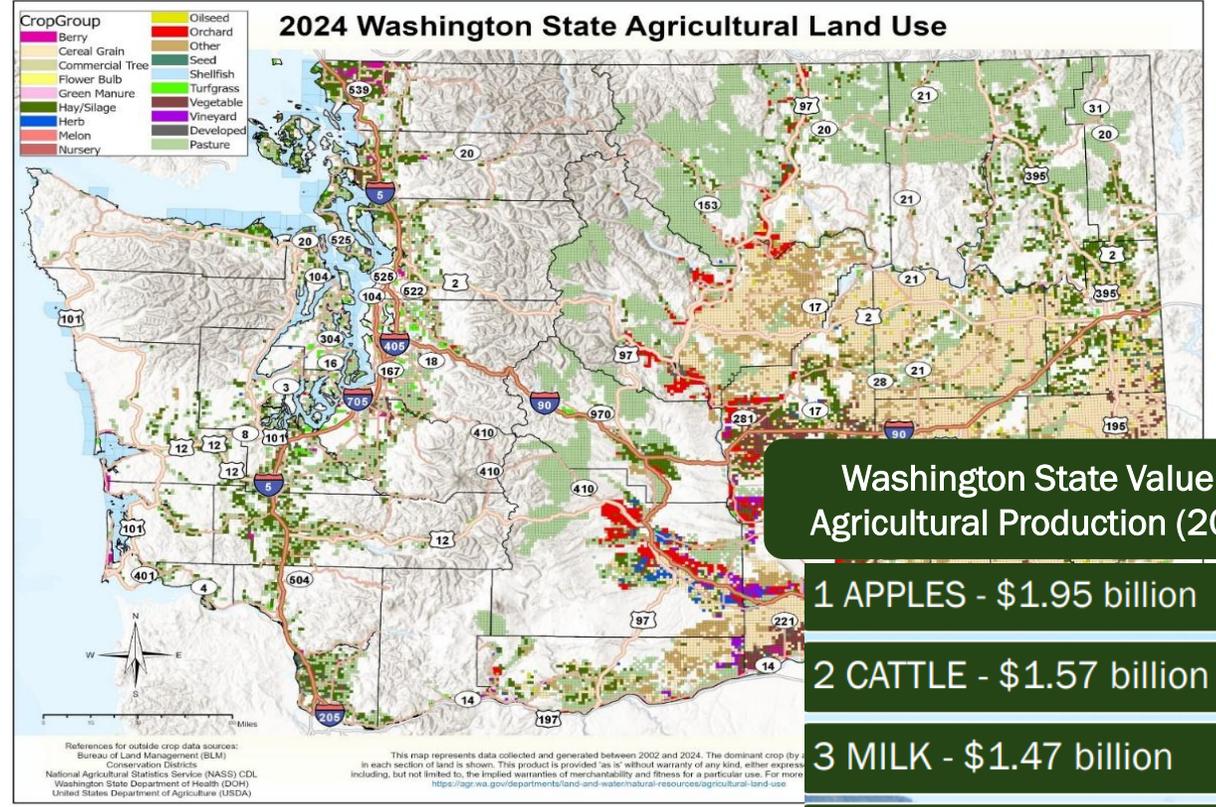
Madison Roy, *Agricultural Economist*

Kelly McLain, *Assistant Director,
Agricultural Environmental Services/
Policy Advisor to the Director*



Washington Agriculture

- **\$12.9 billion** – market value of crops and livestock only (2024)
- **300+** - crops grown in Washington
- **32,076** – farms (2022). 94% family owned



Washington State Value of Agricultural Production (2024)

- 1 APPLES - \$1.95 billion
- 2 CATTLE - \$1.57 billion
- 3 MILK - \$1.47 billion
- 4 POTATOES - \$1.03 billion
- 5 WHEAT - \$747 million
- 6 ONIONS - \$477 million
- 7 HAY - \$474 million
- 8 EGGS - \$463 million
- 9 CHERRIES - \$434 million
- 10 HOPS - \$320 million

Washington's Top Export Markets (2024)

Country	2024 Export Value	Top Commodities
Canada	\$1.37 Billion	Seafood, Apples, Cherries
Japan	\$1.12 Billion	Frozen potatoes, Hay, Wheat
Mexico	\$908 Million	Apples, Frozen potatoes, Malt
China	\$693 Million	Beef, Seafood, Hay
South Korea	\$508 Million	Frozen potatoes, Hay, Wheat

Strengths

- Geographic and climatic advantages
- Natural resource advantages
- Built infrastructure and networks
- Unique farms and food businesses

*Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Division via wisertrade.org

Washington Agriculture Weaknesses

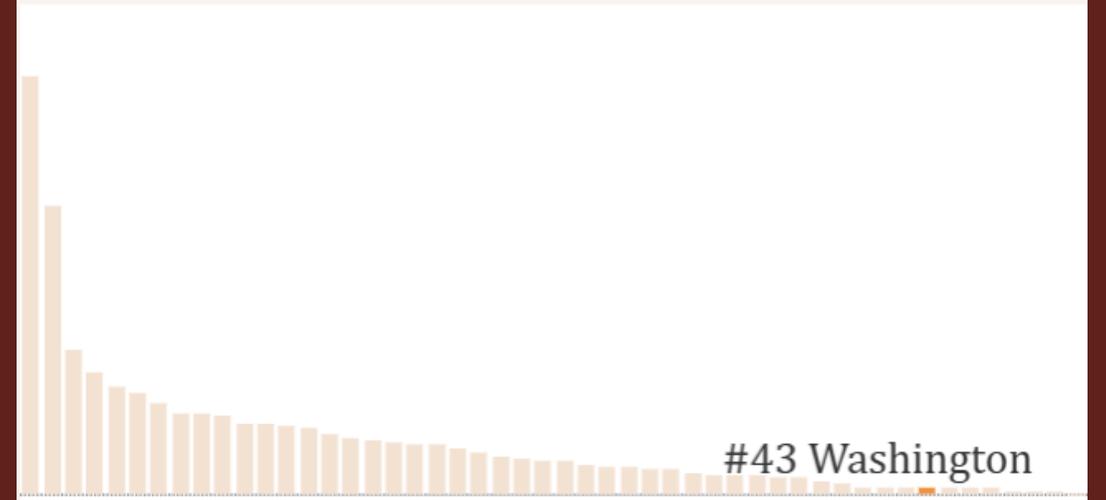
- Rising input costs, low crop prices
- Labor and workforce concerns
- Trade challenges
- Increasing land costs and development pressure
- Growing urban- rural divide
- Changing climatic conditions
- Declines in research funding
- Infrastructure challenges

Net farm income

2008—24



Net farm income, \$2024

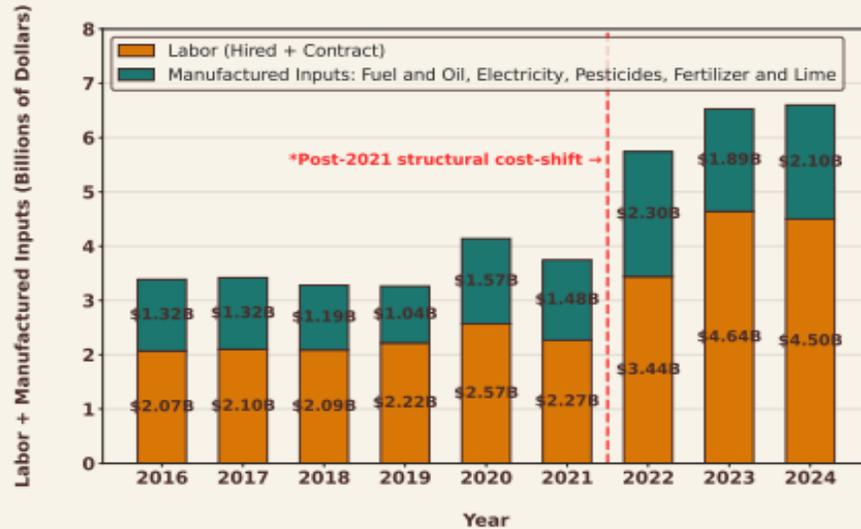


Washington Agriculture Weaknesses

- Rising input costs, low crop prices
- Labor and workforce concerns
- Trade challenges

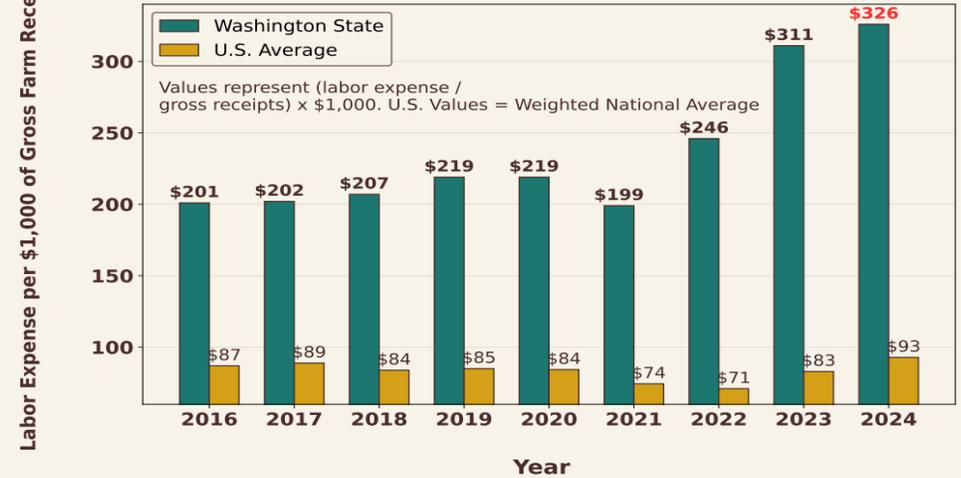
Washington State: Composition of Major Operating Costs (2016-2024)

Labor and Manufactured Input Expense, Nominal Dollars



Washington State vs U.S. Average (2016-2024)
Labor Expense per \$1,000 of Gross Farm Receipts

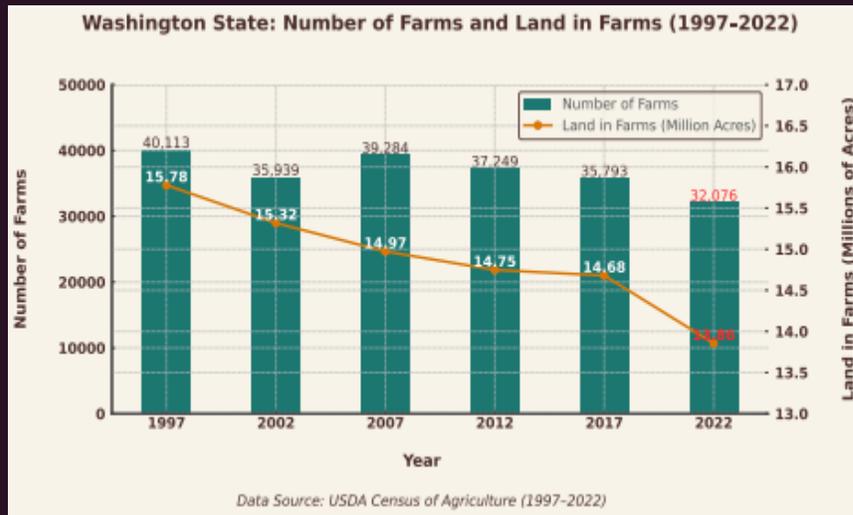
Labor Expense includes hired and contract labor



- Washington ranks 8th in the nation for production expenses (2024).
- 73% ↑ in production expense since 2016.
- Labor - Cost has increased 117% since 2016.
 - H-2A usage in Washington has increased 465% since 2013.
 - Factors: ageing & loss of workforce, seasonality and mental health costs
- Facing trade headwinds – trade barriers and lack of emphasis on market growth

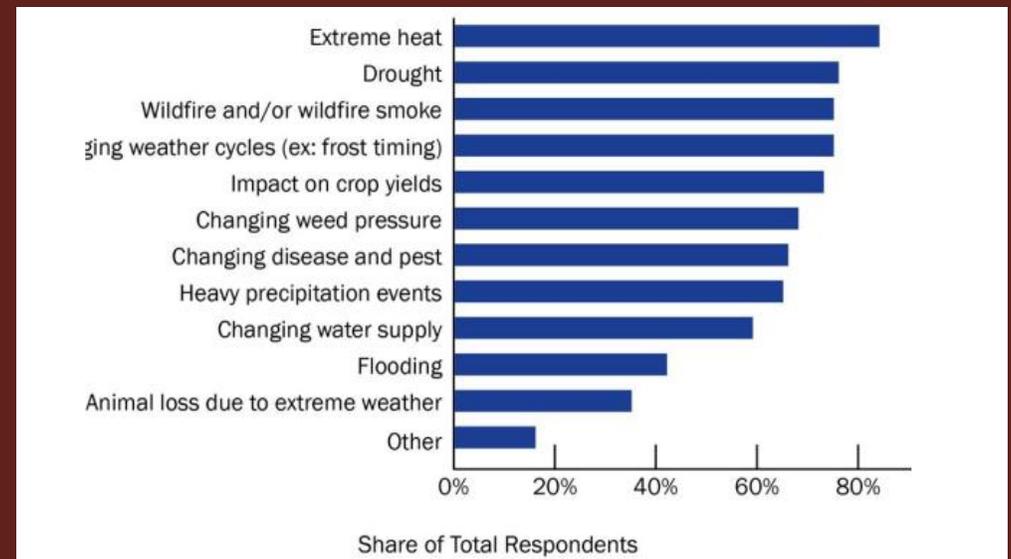
Washington Agriculture Weaknesses

- **Increasing land costs and development pressure** – in the last 20 years, # of farms has ↓ 10.7%, size of farms has ↑ 5.4%



- **Growing urban- rural divide** - <1% Washingtonians involved in agriculture, 83% considered urban

- **Declines in research funding** - Federal funding stagnated at \$4B \$/year – tied to state funding
- **Infrastructure challenges** - 2025 Report Card – WA rated a “C” across highways, bridges, and other transportation networks
- **Changing climatic conditions** – In a 2024 climate resilience survey, over 70% respondents stated extreme impacts to operations over the past 5 years.



Washington Agricultural Opportunities

**Trade and
International Markets**

**Improvements in
Agricultural
Technology**

**Farm and Food
System Development
at Home**

**Supporting Farmer
and Farmworker
Mental Health**

**Opportunities and
Strategies to Mitigate
Climate Risks**

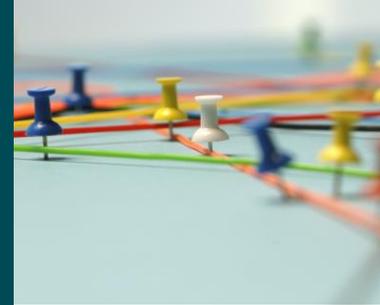
**Workforce
Development and
Agricultural
Education**

Clean Energy

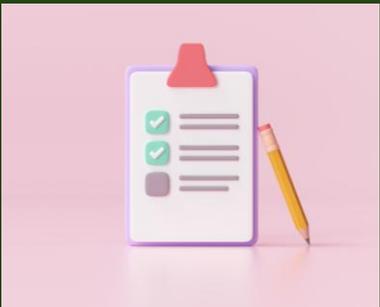
Trade and International Markets



Any investments in port infrastructure, including rail and road



Support Agricultural Trade Networks



Leverage and invest in product quality programs



Reduce exporter costs

Farm and Food Systems Development



Support Land Access for the Next Generation of Farmers



Invest in Right-Sized Infrastructure



Align public procurement and grants with producer needs



Donating Surplus Food

Washington's Agricultural Opportunities

Opportunities and strategies to mitigate climate risks

- Availability of state funding for mitigation and adaptation
- Expanded climate planning
- Increased focus on resilience practices and technologies

Workforce development and agricultural education

- Enhance the understanding of agriculture by youth
- Educating the existing workforce
- Support programs that encourage diversity and reduce entry barriers
- Invest in all education level

Additional Opportunities



Clean Energy

Agrivoltaics

Least – conflict assessments

Dairy digester investments



Agricultural Technology Investments

Cross-cutting

Improved worker conditions

Improved productivity and yields



Mental Health Support for Farmers and Farmworkers

Implement the 2025 report

Invest in one-stop coordinated programs

Next Steps

- Preliminary report available 1/26.
- Final report available 6/26.
 - It will include a more in-depth analysis regarding viability factors including regulatory burden.





Questions

Contact Us



Madison Roy
Agricultural Economist
Madison.Roy@agr.wa.gov



Kelly McLain
Assistant Director, Agricultural
Environmental Services/ Policy Advisor
to the Director
kelly.mclainardal@agr.wa.gov



agr.wa.gov



Closing Reflections & Adjourn

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Looking Ahead

Next topical team calls will be held in March

- Please look out for an email with Doodle polls from the Ross team
- Teams that have not applied the Equity Filter to their proposed action yet, will do so in March

Next Forum meeting is on April 2, 2026



Diversifying Voices Team

New team member! Welcome, Anna Nepomuceno

Team's evolving role

- Provide flexible, ad hoc support to Forum small teams to help them broaden engagement and include diverse voices in small team activities
- Serve as an informal support system to help teams build comfort engaging in equity-centered thinking and action

Team activities

- Quarterly Diversifying Voices team meetings
 - Next meeting: February 27, 2026
- Liaisons on topical small teams
- Combination of proactive & ad hoc support
- “Learn as we go” approach

Team Roster

- **Anna Nepomuceno**, Northwest Harvest
- **Brian Estes**, LINC Foods
- **Claire Lane**, Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition
- **Hilary Aten**, SCC
- **Kyle Unland**, DOH
- **Laura Raymond**, WSDA
- **Marcia Ostrom**, WSU
- **Melissa Spear**, Tilth Alliance