

Connecting local farmers to local schools and markets makes our kids and communities healthier and Washington's farms stronger. Funding WSDA's Farm to School Program and Small Farms Program is good for kids and good for our local economy.

Background: Washington legislators have been national leaders in investing in a healthy, vibrant local food system. In 2001, the Small Farm and Direct Marketing Assistance Program (RCW 15.64.050) was created to support farmers selling directly to consumers. In 2008, the *Local Farms Healthy Kids Act* created ground-breaking legislation to invest in new markets for Washington farms while increasing access to healthy foods by forming WSDA's Farm to School program (RCW 15.64.060), a nationally-recognized program. Combined, these programs have helped Washington's farm economy and kids stay healthier in tough times. Yet in 2011, general funds for both programs were eliminated.

Restore \$500,000 to protect the promise of *Local Farms, Healthy Kids* Act for Washington's farmers, kids and communities

WSDA's Farm to School & Small Farms Programs help our kids and our economy by:

<u>Improving school districts' bottom line</u>: Improving the quality and appeal of school meal programs has a positive return on investment - more federal funds into our schools is better for our state & local budgets.

<u>Improving child nutrition</u>: Our Farm to School program introduces fresh, local food and healthy eating to kids at school, improving academic performance and lifelong health habits that fight obesity.

<u>Leveraging federal funds</u>: Small Farms and Farm to School Programs have brought \$2 million of federal dollars into Washington. More funds are available to us through recent federal legislation, especially for Farm to School – but only if Washington funds its state programs.

<u>Protecting farmland and increasing agriculture jobs</u>: We lose 70,000 acres of farmland every year. Improving access to local markets helps Washington farmland and farmers stay viable into the future – it also keeps federal, state and private dollars circulating in our local communities and creating ag jobs.

Keeping our food and environment safe and increasing efficiencies: New food safety rules are complex. By providing regulatory assistance and addressing market barriers, WSDA helps farmers navigate local, state and federal regulations so their businesses can comply and compete successfully.

<u>Supporting innovation in local food processing and distribution</u>: Connecting farmers with new business opportunities creates more farm jobs, so farmers remain competitive in a changing food marketplace. These programs perform a unique government role that farmers and community partners need to help farmers increase sales and expand food production.

The effort to restore funding for Farm to School & Small Farms Programs is supported by a broad array of community leaders, social justice organizations and farm businesses.

Farming Organizations

Washington Sustainable Food & Farming Network Tilth Producers of Washington Washington Environmental Council Cascade Harvest Coalition Community Alliance for Global Justice Grow Food Organization

Farms

Alm Hill Gardens, Everson Bayhill Garden Farm, Lopez Island ● Big Dog Lavender Farm, Vashon ● Blue Heron Farm, Rockport●Blueberry Hills Farm, Manson●Boisfort Farm, Curtis●Broers Farms, Inc, Monroe ●Broken Bow Farm, Rochester • Carlton Farm, Inc, Lake Stevens • Central Bean Company, Quincy • Central Co-op, Seattle • Cloudview Farms, Royal City

Country Garden Bouquets, Enumclaw

Coyote Ridge Ranch, La Center Daisy Chain Community Supported Ag, Olympia • Davidson Commodities, Inc, Spokane • Delphinia Farms, Olympia • Dog Mountain Farm, Carnation • Farmlink, Tacoma • Farm at Water's Edge, Silverdale • Fertile Foods Inc. Jacksonville ● Gig Harbor Vegetable and Flower Farm, Gig Harbor●Growing Washington, Everson●Haricot Farms Inc, Quincy

Helsing Junction Farm, Rochester

Holmquist Hazelnut Orchards, LLC, Lynden ● Hungry Robin Garden, Spokane ● Island Meadow Farm, Vashon●Jems Jewels Farm, Camano Island● Kitsap Tilth, Bainbridge Island

Lake Chelan Farm, Manson

Let Us Farm, Oakville ● Little Gnome Farm, Ridgefield ● Lopez Meadowlark Farm, Rice ●Misty Meadows Farm, Everson●Moon Rabbit Urban Farm, Seattle Nicolson's Orchard Fresh Fruit, Peshastin

Nash's Organic Produce, Sequim

Ode to Joy Farm, Enumclaw ● Ornery Heron Farm, Spokane ● Orting Valley Market, Orting • Oxbow Farm & Education Center, Carnation • Pheasant Fields Farm, Silverdale ● Pikku Farm, Woodland ● Pine Meadow Farm Center, Cheney●Ralph's Greenhouse, Mount Vernon●Red Shed Produce, Twisp●Rising River Farm, Rochester●Rosehip Farm & Garden, Coupeville ●Schoonover Farms, Odessa● Seattle Farm Co-op, Seattle •Secret Garden Lavender & Herb Farm LLC, Seabeck • Shermans Pioneer Farm, Coupeville • Silvana Produce, Arlington ● Sister Sage Herbs, Seattle ● Skagit Valley Food Co-op, Mount Vernon ●Skipley Farm, Snohomish● Skylight Farm, Snohomish Slow Food Port Susan, Stanwood Sno-Valley Tilth, Carnation South Whidbey Tilth Association, Langley • Sultan Food Revolution, Sultan • Sustainable Connections, Bellingham

◆Terrys Berries LLC, Tacoma

◆Tramp Harbor Produce, Vashon Tierra Garden Organics, Leavenworth ● Vashon Island Growers Association, Vashon ● Viva Farms, Mount Vernon ●Watershed LLC, Vashon● Welcome Table Farm, Walla Walla ●Whatcom Farm-to-School Support Team ●Whitehorse Meadows Farm, Seattle ● Wild Rose Farm, Oak Harbor ● Willie Green's Organic Farm, Monroe ● Zakarison Partnership, Pullman

Farmers Markets

Arlington Farmers Market, Arlington Ballard Farmers Market, Seattle Bellevue Farmers Market, Bellevue Bellingham Farmers Market, Bellingham Camas Farmers Market, Camas Carnation Farmers Market, Carnation Chelan Evening Farmers' market, Chelan Chewelah Farmers Market, Chewelah Deer Park Farmers market, Cheney Des Moines Waterfront Farmers Market, Des Moines Mercer Island Farmers Market, Mercer Island Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance, Seattle (7 Markets) Port Angeles Farmers Market, Port Angeles Poulsbo Farmers Market, Poulsbo Sedro Woolley Farmers Market, Sedro Woolley Seattle Farmers Market Association, Seattle (Operates 3 Markets) Silverdale Farmers Market, Seabeck Tenino Farmers Market, Tumwater West Olympia Farmers Market, Olympia Woodinville Farmers Market, Woodinville

Washington State Farmers Market Association

Anacortes Farmers Market, Anacortes

School Districts & Educational Institutions

Yakima Farmers Market Association, Yakima

Eastern Washington University Sustainability Project, Spokane
•Food Empowerment Education Sustainability Team, White
Center •Friends of the Farms, Bainbridge Island • La Conner
School District, La Conner • Orcas Island Farm to Cafeteria
Program, Orcas • Pierce College/ Milgard Child Development
Center, Lakewood • SBDC Green River Community College,
Auburn • Senior Roundtable Nutrition Program, Walla Walla •
Wenatchee School District, Wenatchee • Wine Country Culinary
Institute, Walla Walla

Anti-Hunger & Social Justice Organizations

Anti-Hunger Nutrition Coalition
Faith Action Network
Got Green
Northwest Harvest
Project Hope-Spokane
Solid Ground
United Food and Commercial Workers Local 21
Valley and Mountain Fellowship, Seattle
Washington Food Coalition

Children's Advocates and Public Health

Children's Alliance
Childhood Obesity Prevention Coalition
Nutrition First
WithinReach
Washington State Food and Nutrition Council