

2009-11 BIENNIAL BUDGET

AS SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR

May 19, 2009



Department of Agriculture

The 2009-11 Biennial Budget passed by the Legislature provides a total **Operating Budget** of \$127 million for WSDA and includes \$4.0 million in reductions, equal to a 15 percent cutback, in funding from the state's General Fund. The agency's other appropriations and the expenditure authority for its many fee-supported programs remain relatively stable. These other funding sources cover almost 80 percent of the agency's budget.

REDUCTIONS IN GENERAL FUND-STATE (GF-S) BUDGET:

- **Biofuels Quality Assurance:** (-\$200,000) Eliminates one position now that initial biofuels technical and policy issues have been addressed.
- **Weed Control Grants:** (-\$400,000) Reduces funding, added in 2007, for grants to county weed boards for weed control, including knotweed control.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** (-\$28,000) Eliminates funding for coordinating the Interagency IPM Coordinating Committee.
- **GF-S Replacement:** (-\$1,162,000) Replaces General Fund-State funding with agricultural fee expenditure authority in three activities that are primarily funded by fees: Feed Regulation, Pesticide Regulation and Administrative Services. Anticipated fee revenue is projected to be sufficient to maintain current program activity.
- **Governor-Directed Reductions:** (-\$2,208,000) Reduces WSDA's GF-S budget. Implementation of most of the reductions began in FY 2009 and include scaling back the new Farm-To School program and eliminating funding for the "From the Heart of Washington" campaign, grants for market promotion and fighting trade barriers, and pass-through funding to the Wine Commission.

OTHER OPERATING BUDGET PROVISIONS

- **Spartina Eradication:** Provides \$487,000 in a one-time enhancement for the cooperative effort to eradicate Spartina, an extremely aggressive invasive weed, in Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor. (*Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account*)
- **Fee increase approval:** Provides WSDA with approval (as required by I-960) to establish or increase fees for four activities: Christmas tree grower licensing, nursery dealer licensing, plant pest inspection and testing, and commission merchant licensing. With this approval, WSDA can pursue rulemaking to provide adequate funding for inspections and regulatory work it conducts for the agricultural industry and others. The fees are the sole source of funding for the activities.
- **Solid Waste Handling Permits:** Provides \$25,000 GF-S to implement SSB 5797, which requires the Department of Ecology and WSDA to issue guidelines by August 2009 for anaerobic co-digestion of livestock manure and organic waste-derived material that would allow an anaerobic digester to be exempt from a solid waste handling permit.
- **Stock Water:** Names WSDA to a working group, to be convened by the Dept. of Ecology, to review issues surrounding the use of permit-exempt wells for stock-watering purposes and to report its recommendations by December 1, 2009.
- **Agricultural Worker Safety:** Directs the Dept. of Labor & Industries to enter into an interagency agreement with WSDA to implement a community agricultural worker safety grant of \$500,000.

The **Transportation Budget** provides \$1.5 million in continued funding for WSDA's Motor Fuel Quality program, from the Motor Vehicle Account. The **Capital Budget** includes \$400,000 for grants to counties for fairground improvements.

For more information, contact Mary Beth Lang, Assistant to the Director, (360) 902-1812.