



## Washington State Department of Agriculture Summary of Impacts of the 2009 Legislative Session

July 1, 2009

### **Budget Summary**

The two-year state operating budget for the 2009-11 biennium, which starts July 1, makes a number of reductions and adjustments across state government, including no cost-of-living increases for state workers and lower state funding of employee health care. The total operating budget for the **Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)** for the biennium is \$128.4 million. This includes an appropriation of \$24.9 million to the agency from the state general fund, which is a reduction of \$4.0 million. 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.

Here are the key policy changes reflected in the department's operating budget:

- **Spartina Eradication:** Provides \$487,000 in a one-time enhancement to the current state effort to eradicate Spartina. Earmarks \$350,000 for the Pacific County Noxious Weed Board for eradication efforts in Willapa Bay
- **Fee increase approval:** Provides the department with legislative 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 to cover the inspections and regulatory work it conducts to support the agricultural industry and others in these four areas.
- **State General Fund (GF-S) appropriation reduction:** Reduces WSDA's GF-S budget by \$4 million, or about 15% of the agency's carry forward GF-S budget. Implementation of most of the reductions began in late 2008. Reductions include eliminating state funding for the "From the Heart of Washington" campaign and grants for market promotion and fighting trade barriers as well as scaling back the Farm-To School program, weed control grants and biofuels quality assurance.

More specifics on budget provisions affecting WSDA can be found at: [2009 Governor Signed Budget for WSDA](#).

### **Legislation Summary**

Below is the list of bills passed by state lawmakers during the 2009 legislative session in which WSDA has a specific role in implementing. WSDA is the lead implementing agency for some bills or specific provisions of a bill. For others, WSDA has a collaborative or consultative role. A link to the Legislature's web site is provided for each bill, where you can access the session law and the final bill report and review the history of the bill and related documents. Most 2009 session laws take effect on July 26, 2009.

### ***Bills for which WSDA is lead implementing agency***

#### **SSB 5350 - Poultry slaughter, preparation, and sale**

Expands the coverage provided under a special permit issued by WSDA to slaughter and sell up to 1,000 pastured chickens a year directly to the consumer at the producer's farm to include all poultry, not just pastured chickens.

#### **SSB 5677 - Dairy nutrient management program**

Authorizes WSDA to enter onto dairy farms at reasonable times for inspecting and investigating conditions relating to water pollution. If denied access, WSDA may apply for a search warrant. Clarifies the requirement for dairies to maintain records to show that application of nutrients to land was made within acceptable agronomic rates. Lengthens the record keeping requirement to five years for all dairy farms beginning on July 1, 2011.

#### **SSB 5797 - Solid waste handling permits (for anaerobic digesters)**

Exempts an anaerobic digester from solid waste permitting if the digester meets certain requirements. Requires the Dept. of Ecology and WSDA, in consultation with the Dept. of Health, to develop guidelines for anaerobic co-digestion of livestock manure and organic waste-derived material by August 1, 2009.

#### **SSB 5765 - Fruit & vegetable district fund**

Transfers \$150,000 from the Fruit & Vegetable Inspection Account to the plant pest account within the Agricultural Local Fund to support apple maggot control activities over the next four years. Both accounts are administered by WSDA.

#### **SB 5974 - Live Nonambulatory Livestock**

Authorizes WSDA to issue a civil infraction to individuals who knowingly transport non-ambulatory livestock to or from a facility that trades in livestock. The penalty is up to \$1,000 per animal.

#### **SHB 1010 - Definition of a biofuel**

Defines "renewable diesel" and specifies that renewable diesel may count towards the renewable fuel content requirements contained in the Motor Fuel Quality Act.

### ***Bills for which WSDA has a specific collaborative or consultative implementation role***

#### **E2SSB 5649 - Energy efficiency in buildings**

Section 103 of this bill requires WSU, in consultation with WSDA, to form an interdisciplinary team of agricultural and energy extension agencies to develop and offer new methods to help agricultural producers assess their opportunities to increase energy efficiency in all aspects of their operations.

#### **E2SSB 5560 - State agency climate leadership**

Among other provisions requiring state agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, designates WSDA as one of six agencies in a work group directed to develop an initial climate change response strategy by Dec. 1, 2011 for use by government agencies and others to address the impacts of climate change.

#### **ESSB 5889 - Providing flexibility in the education system**

Sections 12 and 16 of this bill revise the requirement for schools to provide notice of pesticide use to be only upon the request of a student's parent or guardian or a school employee.

#### **SHB 1254 - Creating the Washington grain commission.**

Combines the wheat and barley commissions into a new Washington Grain Commission.

More WSDA-related information on the 2009 session can be found on the Web at: [Legislative Affairs](#)