



# PRESS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Washington Field Office • Olympia, WA 98507

Ag Statistics Hotline: 1-800-727-9540 • [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)



Released on October 6, 2008

Contact: David Knopf (360) 902-1940

[nass-wa@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-wa@nass.usda.gov)

## Washington's 2007 Agricultural Value Breaks Record for Third Straight Year Apples and Milk Values Surpass \$1 Billion Mark

The value of Washington's 2007 agricultural production reached a record \$8.51 billion, 23 percent above the 2006 revised figure of \$6.90 billion.

**Record Highs:** Record high values of production were set for four of the top five commodities. The value of production for **apples** was \$1.75 billion compared with the previous high of \$1.41 billion, set in 2006. **Milk** production reached \$1.06 billion compared with \$688 million in 2006. **Wheat**, at \$975 million, surpassed the previous record of \$756 million set in 1996. **Potato** growers contributed \$685 million to the State's agricultural economy, ahead of the previous high of \$562 million set in 2006.

Among other crops breaking records, the value of the State's hay crop jumped to \$517 million compared with the previous record high of \$401 million set in 2006. Grapes, pears, blueberries, eggs, hops, and nursery and greenhouse products also set new record high values of production.

"The food and agriculture industry continues to be the cornerstone of Washington's economy," said Bob Gore, acting director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. "A 25 percent increase over the previous year's record revenues grabs your attention, especially in comparison with recent downturns in a number of economic sectors. On the whole, our 33,000 farmers and ranchers had excellent gains, but they continue to face escalating costs to grow their crops and raise their livestock."

**Top Five:** For the fourth year in a row, apples topped the list with a value of \$1.75 billion, 24 percent above 2006. Apples represented 21 percent of the total agricultural value, unchanged from 2006. Milk ranked second with a value of \$1.06 billion, 54 percent above 2006. With an increase of 56 percent over the previous year, the value of wheat, at \$975 million, kept its third place ranking. In fourth place were potatoes at \$685 million which posted a 22 percent increase from 2006. Rounding out the top five were cattle and calves at \$581 million. These five commodities had a combined value of \$5.05 billion, or 61 percent of the 2007 value for all commodities. The same five commodities in 2006 had a combined value of \$3.87 billion, 58 percent of the total value. In 2005 comparable figures were \$3.46 billion and 56 percent.

**Commodity Groups:** With the increases in the values of wheat and potatoes in 2007, the value of field crops, at \$2.87 billion, was 38 percent higher than last year. Fruit and nut crops, at \$2.45 billion, continued an upward trend and set a new record value, exceeding the previous record of \$2.02 billion set in 2006. In third place was livestock, at \$1.99 billion, an increase of 28 percent from 2006. Specialty products regained some of the value lost in 2006 and ended the year at \$535 million. Rounding out the groups were Commercial Vegetables, at \$380 million, and Berry crops at \$96 million.

Blueberries had the highest value per harvested acre for 2007 with a value of \$13,421 per acre. Next in line were non-storage onions with a value of \$12,350 and third were apples at \$11,048.

Top Forty Agricultural Commodities, Washington, 2005-2007

Commodity	Rank	Value of Production			Change 2007 vs 2006
		2005	2006	2007	
		\$1,000			Percent
Apples	1	1,031,504	1,407,632	1,745,620	24.0
Milk 4/	2	835,592	688,464	1,061,952	54.2
Wheat	3	456,316	625,821	974,516	55.7
Potatoes	4	534,688	561,875	685,063	21.9
Cattle & Calves	5	600,698	587,525	580,947	-1.1
Hay, All	6	367,350	400,609	516,568	28.9
Nursery & Greenhouse Products 1/	7	326,259	241,788	342,683	41.7
Cherries, All	8	338,463	273,424	327,118	19.6
Pears, All	9	142,006	159,231	178,224	11.9
Grapes, All	10	141,035	145,380	172,203	18.5
Hops	11	73,413	87,740	128,165	46.1
Farm Forest Products 2/	12	150,000	140,000	119,000	-15.0
Corn for Grain	13	46,084	58,590	114,660	95.7
Eggs	14	44,791	56,661	105,372	86.0
Aquaculture(incl. trout eggs & fish) 5/	15	99,110	84,007	87,042	0.0
Sweet Corn, All	16	69,609	70,789	85,088	20.2
Corn for Silage	17	59,157	60,372	81,608	35.2
Barley	18	27,011	34,474	68,580	98.9
Broilers 3/	19	102,581	77,668	63,925	-17.7
Onions, All	20	102,865	239,568	60,033	-74.9
Mint Oil	21	45,204	50,789	58,815	15.8
Christmas Trees	22	50,000	51,000	51,000	0.0
Blueberries	23	19,160	30,140	49,656	64.8
Haylage	24	28,675	27,390	29,156	6.4
Dry Edible Beans	25	17,266	23,619	28,254	19.6
Red Raspberries	26	39,275	20,530	27,886	35.8
Kentucky Bluegrass Seed	27	22,680	23,513	26,606	13.2
Other Grass Seeds	28	8,640	6,979	26,040	273.1
Lentils	29	8,845	12,616	25,165	99.5
Mushrooms	30	17,711	17,953	7/	
Green Peas for Processing	31	17,240	13,873	20,993	51.3
Dry Edible Peas	32	7,346	8,815	18,952	115.0
Asparagus	33	27,580	18,911	17,802	-5.9
Alfalfa Seed	34	11,730	13,720	15,075	9.9
Carrots for Processing	35	9,768	7,616	9,344	22.7
Peaches	36	11,732	12,008	8,873	-26.1
Strawberries	37	6,940	7,728	7,982	3.3
Nectarines 6/	38	6,486	8,298	7,266	-12.4
Apricots	39	5,715	6,180	7,137	15.5
Wrinkled Seed Peas	40	8,085	7,140	7/	
Total Top 40 Value of Production		5,918,610	6,370,436	7,963,149	25.0
TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION		6,220,229	6,699,921	8,321,011	24.2

1/ Includes floriculture.

2/ Value of forest products sold from operations meeting the USDA farm definition.

3/ Washington Fryer Commission total weight multiplied by USDA US average bird liveweight price per pound.

4/ Value at average returns per 100 pounds of milk in combined marketings of milk and cream plus value of milk used for home consumption and milk fed to calves.

5/ Excludes value of distributed fish.

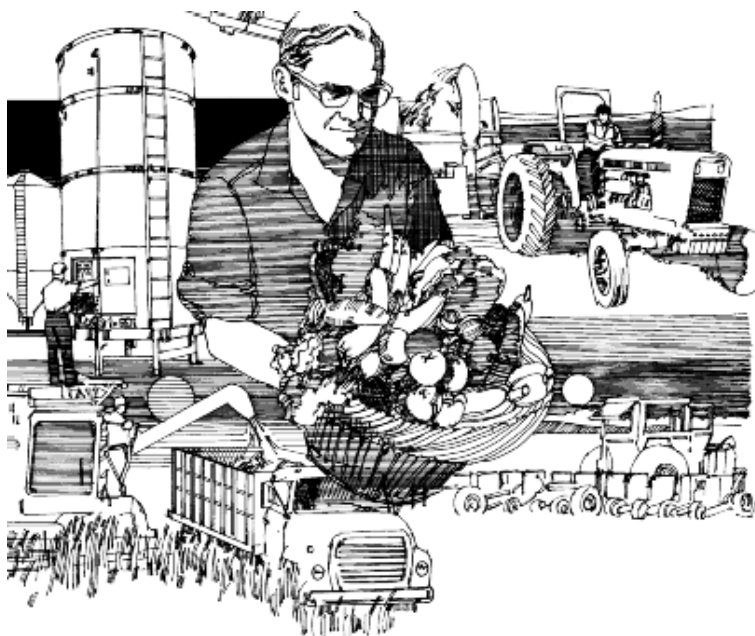
6/ Estimates began in 2005.

7/ Not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Value of Production and Government Payments, 1998-2007

Yr	Field Crops	Fruits and Nuts	Commercial Veg	Berry Crops	Total Crops	Specialty Products <sup>1/</sup>	Livestock and Products	Total Value of Prod.	Govt. Paymts.	Total Value <sup>2/</sup>
1,000 Dollars										
1998	1,648,070	1,070,299	357,016	40,405	3,115,790	584,544	1,542,459	5,242,793	260,524	5,503,317
1999	1,617,658	1,233,033	299,306	66,252	3,216,249	592,518	1,553,370	5,362,137	270,594	5,632,731
2000	1,697,526	1,164,734	325,760	46,739	3,234,759	587,994	1,519,056	5,341,809	352,793	5,694,602
2001	1,750,181	1,315,186	306,775	61,534	3,433,676	535,386	1,604,115	5,573,177	299,021	5,872,198
2002	1,798,986	1,450,719	361,775	62,378	3,673,858	515,334	1,396,461	5,585,653	215,912	5,801,565
2003	1,736,997	1,647,682	354,976	66,161	3,805,816	503,751	1,449,168	5,758,735	265,398	6,024,133
2004	1,814,623	1,256,584	294,995	77,614	3,443,816	539,951	1,678,139	5,661,906	196,974	5,858,880
2005	1,787,459	1,679,972	383,505	75,965	3,926,901	543,970	1,749,358	6,220,229	239,909	6,460,138
2006	2,071,152	2,015,627	530,111	68,100	4,684,990	450,741	1,564,190	6,699,921	196,466	6,896,387
2007	2,867,023	2,449,100	379,515	95,724	5,791,362	534,967	1,994,682	8,321,011	185,127	8,506,138

- 1/ Includes forest products, Christmas trees, floriculture, nursery and other horticultural products, and agaricus and other (shitake, oyster, etc.) mushrooms.  
 2/ Includes government payments.



To access the entire release, including the complete narrative and tables point to:  
[http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Washington/Publications/Current\\_News\\_Release/topforty.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington/Publications/Current_News_Release/topforty.pdf)

Find agricultural statistics for Washington State at [www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\\_by\\_State/Washington](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Washington)