



**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
2025 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES - ESSENTIAL AGENCY FUNCTIONS

LAST UPDATED 01.13.25

The Department of Agriculture's decision packages for maintaining and improving essential functions emphasize bolstering the animal services division, upgrading the enterprise content management system, and enhancing agricultural climate resilience. These initiatives aim to ensure effective animal health management, streamline data handling and accessibility, and support adaptive strategies to address climate-related challenges in agriculture. *Note: All items included in the Governor's proposed budget, have been updated to reflect the funding allocated.*

<b>Central Services Fee Cost Adjustment</b>  \$663,000, one-time - GFS FY26	Historically, roughly half of WSDA's budget has been funded by fees paid for by farmers, ranchers, and food producers and processors. Raising fees to these many individual small farms and licensees in agriculture will disproportionately affect the already disadvantaged rural communities WSDA serves across the state. WSDA requests ongoing funds each fiscal year to cover recent changes in central services costs.
<b>Agricultural Climate Resilience*</b>  \$6.896M, ongoing - CCA	This proposal requests funding for two projects: a grant program for the Commodity Commissions to fund climate resilience projects and research for their agricultural areas of focus, and a network of WSU climate resilience extension staff to support on-farm climate solutions.
<b>Climate Livestock Compost</b>  \$1.786M, ongoing - CCA	This funding supports infrastructure for using composting technology to convert animal mortality waste into compost. It addresses waste management issues from mass animal mortality events, which are more likely to occur due to climate change, and also uses composting technology to sequester carbon in animal mortality waste and provide a source of soil enhancement for agricultural production.
<b>Food and Produce Safety Critical Support</b>  \$711,000, one-time - GFS	WSDA requests funding to support 3.5 FTEs for the Food Safety and Consumer Services Division, 2.5 FTEs for the Food Safety Program, and 1.0 FTE for the Produce Safety Program. The additional staffing will continue to ensure the safety of food grown or produced in Washington state and are required to stay in compliance with the FDA's Food Safety Modernization Act.
<b>Animal Health Core Funds &amp; Records</b>  \$106,000, ongoing - GFS	The Animal Services Division performs a wide scope of work that requires highly trained veterinarians and staff. With additional funding, the division will be able to establish fiscal independence to offset the reduction in USDA cooperative agreements, address the increasing costs of operations; strengthen recruiting and retention efforts, allow for special projects to enhance animal traceability in WA, and hire additional staff to execute our mission, meet general government requirements, and enforce our regulations.
<b>Advancements to Livestock Identification and Traceability*</b>  \$270,000, one-time - GFS	The Livestock Inspection Program seeks \$270,000 from the General Fund State to merge its inspections with the Animal Disease Traceability program, aiming to improve livestock traceability and efficiency. This funding will enhance electronic systems, enable more frequent data collection by producers, and support a consultant to develop better tracking procedures for animal diseases.
<b>Enterprise Content Management System*</b>  \$3.062M, ongoing - Admin Fund Split	WSDA requests spending authority to develop an enterprise content management system over the next six years, essential for transitioning from paper-based to electronic file management. This system will enhance digital content governance, secure financial records, and streamline responses to public records requests, while reducing time and resource costs.
<b>IT Staffing Needs</b>  \$334,000, ongoing - GFS & Admin Fund Split	WSDA's current Information Technology (IT) staff is insufficient to meet the growing demands for cybersecurity, system maintenance, and digital transformation initiatives. This package requests spending authority for 8.0 FTEs to improve IT support across the agency.

*\*Not included in the Governor's proposed budget*

**CONTACTS:**

**EVAN SHEFFELS**

Senior Policy Advisor

Cell: 360/742-8157 | Email: ESheffels@agr.wa.gov

**LAURA BUTLER**

Legislative Liaison/Policy Advisor

Cell: 360/810-0320 | Email: LButler@agr.wa.gov