

General Focus Check-In Meeting – February 18, 2025

Please note that at this time AI programs are not allowed at WSDA hosted meetings and they will be denied or removed from the meeting.

WAFood5 Survey Results – Jennifer Otten, PhD, UW

- Food Security and Food Assistance in the Wake of COVID-19: 5th survey (2024) of WA households
- WAFOOD project page: <https://foodsystems.uw.edu/cphn/wafood/>
- WAFOOD started in 2020 with a focus on pandemic impacts on food security, food assistance use, economic well-being, and health of Washingtonians.
- From a sample of 5,528 Washington state residents surveyed between August-October 2024:
 - Over half of households experienced food insecurity, and over two thirds of households with children experienced food insecurity.
 - Nearly half of all respondents felt that groceries were hard to afford, especially animal proteins and fresh produce.
 - To cope with price increases, nearly three quarters of food insecure respondents reported restricting the quality and quantity of food.
 - More than half of respondents reported being very concerned about future price increases.
 - More than half of households used food assistance, with the most utilized programs being food banks and pantries, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).
 - More than half of food insecure respondents were depressed or anxious, and almost all reported high stress.
- **Contact info:**
 - Dr. Jennifer Otten, principal investigator – jotten@uw.edu
 - Dr. Marie Spiker, co-principal investigator – mospiker@uw.edu
 - Alan Ismach, project coordinator – ismaca@uw.edu
 - Project email – phisurvey@uw.edu
- **Questions/Comments:**
 - C: Thank you Jennifer. These slides were extremely informational and helpful.
 - C: Wow! What great information.
 - Q: Can you put the link in the chat? [Link](#)
 - C: Thank you Jennifer, this was really informative.
 - Q: For the question for how long the food lasted was it because it went bad or because households ran out? Do we know?
 - A: Thanks for the good question. The survey question we asked was: In the last 30 days, thinking about the food (you/your household) got from ____, approximately how much was eaten rather than needing to be discarded (e.g., spoiled, thrown out, composted, put in a garbage disposal, fed to animals or otherwise not eaten by humans)?

- Q: Hi, Jennifer, sorry I may have missed this in the beginning – could you describe the sampling method a little? Are the results considered representative of the state population?
 - A: We used convenience sampling and we also used recontact sampling, meaning anyone who agreed to be recontacted from prior waves. We purposefully oversample low-income households and households using food assistance. So, the sample is not representative but that is by design. It's a feature not a bug, as they say. It allows us to have a large sample of those households using food assistance the most so we can understand their experiences. For comparison, when the national survey gets a representative sample of WA and has 9.5% food insecure that means they only have ~180 people in their sample that re food insecure. Our sample has ~3000+ food insecure participants and 55% using food assistance. Does that help?

WSDA Focus on Food & Other Updates – Katie Rains, WSDA

- 2025-2027 WSDA Operating Budget
 - Governor Inslee proposed a 2025-2027 Operating Budget in December 2024
 - In January 2025, Governor Ferguson shared his 2025-2027 Budget priorities and OFM directed state agencies to identify and submit operating budget proposals based on those priorities.
 - This month, Governor Ferguson will work with OFM and agencies to finalize details of his reductions proposal and to provide his framework to legislative budget writers.
- 2025 WSDA Food and Equity Budget Requests
 - Sustained Enhanced Food Assistance \$93.25M
 - Climate Livestock Composting \$1.7M
 - Equity and Environmental Justice, Ag Mental Health and Services for Underrepresented Farmers and Ranchers staff \$2.4 M (combined)
- 2025 Food Policy Monitoring and Work Session Contributions
 - HB1404/SB5352 Free School Meals
 - SHB1388/SSB5214 Mobile Markets
 - SB5474/HB1588 Organic Agriculture
 - HB1497 Waste Materials Mgmt
 - SB5055 Agritourism
 - [Link to HB1987](#)
- **Contact:**
 - Katie Rains, Food Policy Advisor to the Director
 - krains@agr.wa.gov
 - 360-688-4549

Washington Food Coalition – Trish Twomey

- Switching to a new platform, newsletters are being held up.
- L&I training tomorrow 2:30-3:30pm.
- WFC is hiring a full time Membership and Education Manager position.
- Webinar March 12th to go over the results of the nutrition policy evaluation with the American Red Cross. Compares agencies with and without nutrition policies and how they fared with donations and the types of food they give out. More details in newsletter. [Link in chat.](#)

- Hunger Action Day February 24th.
- **Contact:**
 - Trish Twomey, Executive Director
 - trish@wafoodcoalition.org

Advocacy Updates – Claire Lane, Aaron Czyzewski, AHNC

- Registration is open for Hunger Action Day Feb 24th. [Link in chat](#). Will occur between the policy cut off date and fiscal cut off date. Register asap. 185 registered so far.
- [Link to sign in on Pro](#).
- School meals bill don't have hearings yet. Gov Ferguson is pushing for this. [Link in chat](#).
- A lot of bills aren't moving forward.
- Food banks/pantries interested in capital budget projects or have something in the works contact Aaron Czyzewski.
- **Questions/Comments**
 - Q: In which committee is that bill being dropped?
 - A: Rick, the food security bill (HB 1987) bill we were talking about is in the House Agriculture committee.
 - Q: We have at least one person who registered for Hunger Action Day, but now can't attend. Is there somewhere you'd like us to unregister them?
 - A: Angie – and everyone – if someone has registered for Hunger Action Day and can't attend, please email me: Claire.Lane2@gmail.com
 - Q: I'm a bit new. What is SNAP?
 - A: It's Basic Food in Washington state. Food stamps.
 - A: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.
- **Contact:**
 - Aaron Czyzewski, aaronc@foodlifeline.org (813) 503-3535
 - Claire Lane, Claire.Lane2@gmail.com (206) 446-0966

Food Order Work Group Meeting – James Scovel, WSDA FA

- Thursday, February 27th, 10:00-11:00
- Discuss entitlement orders for July to Sept 2024
- Discuss votes/ballot for yearlong order

Federal Updates – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- TEFAP/CSFP current programs are still up in the air (not finalized). Budgets not finalized nor have state plans been approved yet.
- USDA is still soliciting, awarding, and delivering food. James continues to order USDA Foods.
- CCC federal funding is not tied to the annual budget, but to the Farm Bill, with a new phase coming up. New phase (Year 3 Phase 1) has not been signed by USDA yet and might be on hold.
- We will communicate what info we have when we know it. We have not received any new info from USDA and are continuing business as usual. However, we are developing contingency plans.
- Thanks to those who assisted with the WSDA FA State Audit.
- **Questions/Comments**
 - Q: While we cannot require address, do we have to ask?

- A: No. We are updating the forms and Procedures Manuals.

Office Hours & Trainings – Kim Eads, WSDA FA

- LFPA
 - Quarterly open office hours
 - Quarterly reports due April 20th
 - Farm to Community Team
 - Contact Jeff Mathias – jeff.mathias@agr.wa.gov
- Lead Agency – Core Programs
 - 1st Tuesday of the month
 - Q&A, info sharing, problem solving
 - Contact your Regional Representative
- Resiliency Grant
 - TBD
 - Contact Britt Beug – foodassistancegrants@agr.wa.gov
- Food Order Work Group Meeting
 - Thursday, Feb 27th 10-11am
 - Contact: James Scovel – jscovel@agr.wa.gov, 360-725-5641 or John Carney – john.carney@agr.wa.gov, 360-485-1258

Upcoming:

- Hunger Action Day
 - Monday, February 24th
- Food Order Work Group Meeting
 - Thursday, February 27th 10:00-11:00am
- Lead Agency Check-In Meeting
 - Friday, March 7th 9:00-10:00am
- General Focus Check-In Meeting
 - Tuesday, March 18th 9:00-10:00am