

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, Washington state is one of the most productive agricultural regions in the country, and Washington farmers and ranchers produce nearly \$14 billion in food and agricultural products every year; and

WHEREAS, the quality and diversity of Washington agricultural products is recognized throughout the country, ranking us first in the nation in providing many staple foods; and

WHEREAS, the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program encourage eating nutritious agricultural products by providing affordable meals and supporting school purchases of local foods for students, playing an important role in providing food for low-income children and families, students of color and immigrant households; and

WHEREAS, school food authorities in Washington state report \$31 million in approximate annual local food purchases for school meal programs; and

WHEREAS, school nutrition professionals, farmers and farmworkers are recognized for their efforts to provide hundreds of thousands of meals to students; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State Local Farms Healthy Kids Act of 2008 supports increased consumption of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, meat, legumes, dairy and other products from Washington producers; and

WHEREAS, farm to school programs, including the Washington State Department of Agriculture Farm to School Program, connect Washington farms with schools to increase purchases of Washington-grown foods and improve students' health and learning by supporting nutritious, locally grown meals, school gardens and education about Washington foods and farms; and

WHEREAS, farm to school recognizes the diversity of Washington farmers, farmworkers and their products and increases opportunities for more farmers to supply fresh, local foods to schools and students; and

WHEREAS, the Washington School Nutrition Association and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Child Nutrition provide invaluable service to our state's schools, helping to ensure healthy, well-balanced meals for children in school;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 8, 2025, as

Taste Washington Day

in v and I urge all people in our state to join me in this special observance.

Signed this 15th day of August, 2025

Governor Bob Ferguson

