

# 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 \$9.67 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 encourages eating these nutritious agricultural products by providing affordable meals and supporting school purchases of local foods for students and has had an important role in providing food for low-income children and families, students of color, and immigrant households during the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, last year Washington State growers produced more than \$26 million worth of food products that were distributed to the National School Lunch Program and other food assistance programs by the United States Department of Agriculture; and

**WHEREAS**, school nutrition professionals, farmers, and farmworkers are recognized for their heroic efforts to provide hundreds of thousands of meals to keep students and families in Washington State fed during the coronavirus pandemic; 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, such as the one at the Washington State Department of Agriculture, connect Washington farms with schools to increase purchases of Washington-grown foods and improves 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

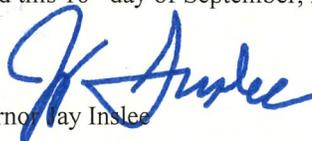
**WHEREAS**, the Washington School Nutrition Association and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction Child Nutrition provide invaluable service to our state's schools, helping to ensure healthy, well-balanced meals for our school children;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, Jay Inslee, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim October 7, 2020, as

### *Taste Washington Day*

in Washington, and I encourage all people in our state to join me in recognizing the value of the school lunch program and the contributions made to it by Washington State agriculture.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020

  
Governor Jay Inslee

