



# PRESS RELEASE

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Released on October 3, 2007

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## Washington's 2006 Agricultural Value Breaks Record for Second Straight Year

The value of Washington's 2006 agricultural production reached a record \$6.87 billion, 6 percent above last year's revised figure of \$6.46 billion.

**Record Highs:** Record high values of production for major commodities were set for apples, pears, potatoes, all hay, onions, and nursery and greenhouse products. The value of production for **apples** was \$1.39 billion compared with the previous high set in 2003 of \$1.18 billion. **Pear** production reached \$160 million compared with \$142 million in 2005. **Potatoes**, at \$562 million, surpassed the previous record of \$554 million set in 1995. **Hay** producers contributed \$398 million to the state's agricultural economy, ahead of the previous high of \$380 million set in 2004. The value of the **onion** crop jumped to \$146 million compared with the previous record high of \$113 million set in 2002. **Nursery and greenhouse growers** produced a record \$331 million worth of agricultural products compared with \$329 million in 2004.

Among other crops breaking records, the value of the State's **blueberry** crop surged to \$30 million compared with \$19 million in 2005 and \$16 million just two years ago.

"The food and agriculture industry continues to be a critical sector of Washington's economy," said Valoria Loveland, Director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture. "On the whole, our 34,000 farmers and ranchers did well in 2006, with gains in revenues from apples, wheat and other key crops. All indications point toward another good year for prices for our farm products in 2007, with wheat prices reaching historic highs in recent days."

**Top Five:** For the third year in a row, apples headed the list with a value of production of \$1.39 billion, 34 percent above 2005. Apples represented 21 percent of the total agricultural value produced compared with 17 percent in 2005. Milk ranked second with a value of \$688 million, 18 percent below 2005. With an increase of 37 percent over last year, the value of wheat, at \$626 million moved into third place. In fourth place were cattle and calves at \$588 million. Rounding out the top five and posting a 5 percent increase from 2005 were potatoes at \$562 million. These five commodities had a combined value of \$3.85 billion, or 58 percent, of the 2006 value for all commodities. The same five commodities in 2005 had a combined value of \$3.46 billion. In 2004 comparable figures were \$3.06 billion and 54 percent.

**Commodity Groups:** With the increases in the values of wheat and hay in 2006, the value of field crops, at \$2.07 billion, was slightly higher than the value of fruit and nuts at \$1.99 billion. Fruit and nut crops continued an upward trend and set a new record value, exceeding the previous record of \$1.68 billion set last year. The value of field crops, however, was second to the previous record of \$2.10 billion set in 1995. In third place was livestock, at \$1.56 billion, a decrease of 11 percent from 2005. Specialty products dipped slightly in 2006 to \$540 million from \$544 million the previous year. Rounding out the groups were Commercial Vegetables, at \$437 million, and berry crops at \$68 million.

Another way to evaluate each crop is to look at the value per harvested acres, which reflects both the yield and price. Cherries topped the list for 2006 with a value of \$8,926 per acre. Next in line were blueberries with a value of \$8,865 per acre and third were apples at \$8,773 per acre.

Government payments in 2006 totaled \$196 million, less than 3 percent of the \$6.87 billion.

## Top Forty Agricultural Commodities, Washington, 2004-2006

Commodity	Rank 2006	Value of Production			Change 2006 vs. 2005
		2004	2005	2006	
		<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>\$1,000</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Apples	1	742,415	1,031,504	1,386,118	34.4
Milk <sup>4</sup>	2	861,144	835,592	688,464	-17.6
Wheat	3	524,493	456,316	625,821	37.1
Cattle & Calves	4	476,099	600,698	587,525	-2.2
Potatoes	5	459,669	534,688	561,875	5.1
Hay, All	6	379,648	367,350	398,464	8.5
Nursery & Greenhouse Products <sup>1</sup>	7	328,908	326,259	331,259	1.5
Cherries, All	8	242,018	336,708	273,424	-18.8
Pears, All	9	128,005	142,006	160,358	12.9
Onions, All	10	35,979	102,865	145,608	41.6
Grapes, All	11	122,335	140,425	144,204	2.7
Forest Products, Farm <sup>2</sup>	12	140,000	150,000	140,000	-6.7
Aquaculture (incl. trout eggs & fish) <sup>5</sup>	13	89,363	99,110	90,109	-10.1
Hops	14	75,811	73,413	88,626	20.7
Broilers <sup>3</sup>	15	98,224	102,581	77,668	-24.3
Sweet Corn, All	16	67,298	69,609	70,789	1.7
Corn for Silage	17	51,545	59,157	60,372	2.1
Corn for Grain	18	62,370	46,084	57,488	24.7
Mint Oil	19	46,061	45,204	51,617	14.2
Christmas Trees	20	55,000	50,000	51,000	2.0
Eggs	21	77,348	44,791	50,840	13.5
Barley	22	34,643	27,011	34,474	27.6
Blueberries	23	16,000	19,160	30,140	57.3
Haylage	24	21,600	28,675	27,390	-4.5
Kentucky Bluegrass Seed	25	28,000	22,680	23,513	3.7
Dry Edible Beans	26	14,921	17,266	22,167	28.4
Red Raspberries	27	45,960	39,275	20,530	-47.7
Asparagus, All	28	31,802	27,580	18,911	-31.4
All Mushrooms (Agar. & Others)	29	16,043	17,711	17,957	1.4
Green Peas, Processing	30	17,610	17,240	13,873	-19.5
Alfalfa Seed	31	11,770	11,730	13,720	17.0
Peaches	32	7,502	11,732	12,504	6.6
Lentils	33	16,628	8,845	11,932	34.9
Nectarines <sup>6</sup>	34		6,486	8,298	27.9
Dry Edible Peas	35	14,198	7,346	7,888	7.4
Strawberries	36	7,310	6,940	7,728	11.4
Carrots, Processing	37	11,340	9,768	7,483	-23.4
Wrinkled Seed Peas	38	10,005	8,085	7,140	-11.7
Other Grass Seeds	39	9,000	8,640	6,979	-19.2
Apricots	40	6,260	5,715	6,180	8.1
<b>Total Top 40 Value of Production</b>		5,384,325	5,916,245	6,340,436	7.2
<b>TOTAL VALUE OF PRODUCTION</b>		5,661,906	6,218,619	6,669,845	7.3

<sup>1</sup> Includes floriculture. <sup>2</sup> Value of forest products sold from operations meeting the USDA farm definition. <sup>3</sup> Washington Fryer Commission total weight multiplied by USDA US average bird liveweight price per pound. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> Excludes value of distributed fish. <sup>6</sup> Estimates began in 2005.

## Value of Production and Government Payments, 1997-2006

Yr	Field Crops	Fruits and Nuts	Comm- ercial Veg	Berry Crops	Total Crops	Specialty Products <sup>1</sup>	Livestock and Products	Total Value of Prod.	Govt. Paymts.	Total Value <sup>2</sup>
	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>	<i>1,000 Dollars</i>
1997	1,869,686	1,235,820	357,558	50,183	3,513,247	577,012	1,450,033	5,540,292	147,263	5,687,555
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	1,677,690	384,105	76,037	3,925,291	543,970	1,749,358	6,218,619	239,909	6,458,528
2006	2,066,919	1,993,810	437,218	67,595	4,565,542	540,216	1,564,087	6,669,845	196,466	6,866,311

<sup>1</sup> Includes forest products, Christmas trees, floriculture, nursery and other horticultural products, and agaricus and other (shitake, oyster, etc.) mushrooms.

<sup>2</sup> Includes government payments.



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