

## 02 - Agriculture

Domestic production of food is critical to national security and essential to our future. We are proud that agriculture - including aquaculture, fisheries, forestry, and other food and fiber production - is a leading industry in Washington State. We recognize the role of farmers as stewards of the land, and we support programs and policies that ensure the availability of high-quality food, strengthen rural communities, preserve family farms and maintain the productivity of the land. This requires legislation that sustains farming when calamities occur and that ensures that farmers and farm workers earn a fair return on their efforts, are safe in doing that work, and produce food that is safe to eat.

### **We call for:**

- Incentives to encourage the agricultural skills, careers, and lifestyles that are essential to our country's survival;
- Policies consistent with the Washington State Growth Management Act that preserve agricultural land and natural resources critical to the viability of food, fuel, and forest production into the future;
- Adoption of sustainable agriculture and aquaculture methods;
- Decisions about water resources based on sound, credible scientific and economic information, including local concerns;
- Improvement of agriculture through research and extension efforts, focusing on sustainable agriculture and small farms;
- Reduction of the use of herbicides, pesticides, and other hazardous materials;
- Improving the inspections of domestic and imported foods and livestock to ensure safe food;
- Clear food labeling, including date packaged, and full and complete disclosure of nation of origin, genetically modified organism status, irradiation, and organic certification;
- Encouraging the use of locally grown food;
- Policies that support and encourage small farms and family farms;
- The protection of productive farm land and wetlands from other forms of residential, industrial, and other development;
- Enforcement of antitrust laws that apply to agribusiness;
- Review of and updates to farm subsidy programs to ensure they benefit family-size farms as intended.

### **We oppose:**

- Use of edible products other than waste for the manufacture of bio-fuels.