



2019 Washington State

# Farmland Preservation Indicators

*In 2009, the Farmland Preservation Task Force adopted a series of indicators to track trends, conditions, and opportunities around farmland. Updated in 2019, these indicators offer perspective on the viability and future of agriculture in Washington and help answer the question, "Are activities helping to improve the condition and availability of farmland in Washington?"*

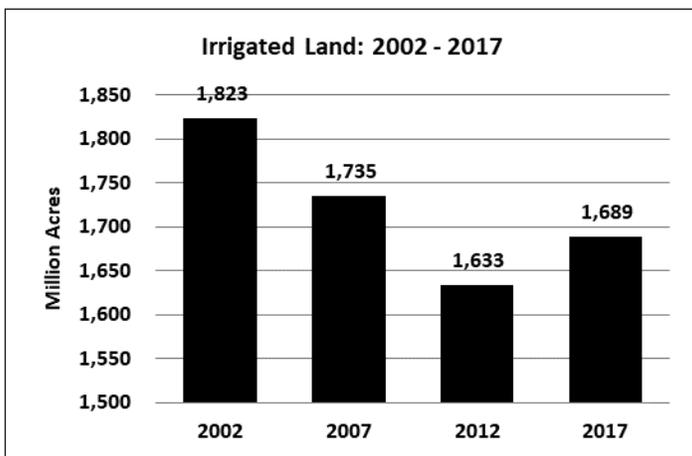
## INDICATOR GROUP:

## RESOURCE AVAILABILITY AND ACCESS

Availability and access to land with related natural resources is important to farmland preservation efforts. This grouping of indicators track water use, state-level tax incentive programs that work to preserve farms, actual acreage in production, and public ownership of land.

### Water Availability

Many farms and farmers in Washington depend on access to a suitable and adequate supply of water. In many parts of Washington, land without water can limit or eliminate agricultural production. Improving water conveyance efficiencies and having water available for irrigation can lead to improved viability of land and contribute to land remaining available for continued agricultural production.



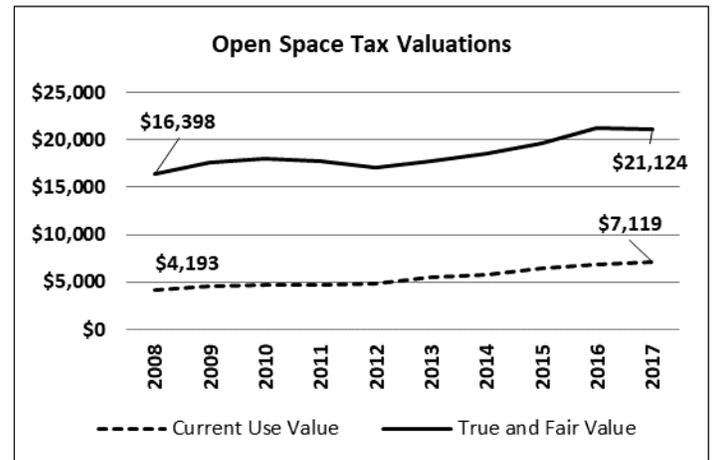
Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

### More Information:

The Farmland Preservation Indicators report is available online: <https://scc.wa.gov/ofp/>

### Contact:

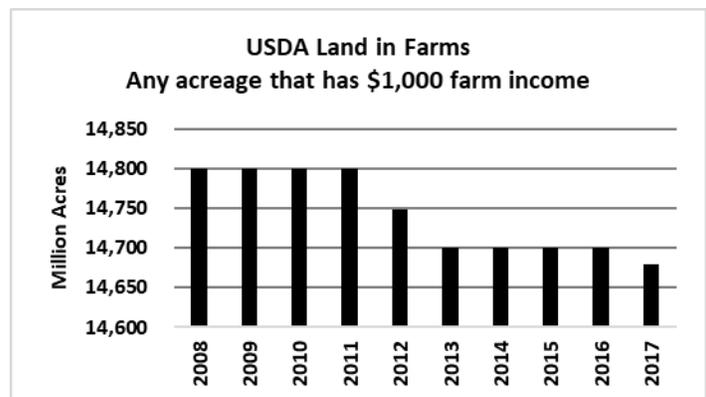
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Source: WA State Department of Revenue

### Open Space Farm and Agriculture Tax Program

The Open Space tax program enacted in 1970 allows farmland property owners to enroll in the program and be assessed taxes at the current use rather than the highest and best use valuation. Annual enrollment is around 10 million acres. In 2018, the current use assessed value was around a 67 percent valuation difference. In general, about 70 percent of all land in farms is enrolled.



Source: USDA Census of Agriculture

### Opportunity Outlook

Efforts should continue to focus on policies that improve agricultural land access and protect key resources necessary for viable agricultural land including water rights and land protection and availability.