



ADVOCACY AGENDA 2016

Based on our most recent policy priority survey, Tilth Producers has identified the following key issues as our policy platform for 2016. To learn more, contact Policy Coordinator Ariana Taylor-Stanley, ariana@tilthproducers.org or 206.660.8958 or read our Policy Blog: tilthproducers.org/category/policy

Policy solutions ↓

Background ↓

Tilth Producers' role ↓

FARMLAND PRESERVATION

We lose more than an acre of farmland every minute.

Protect the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program

The state legislature is considering changes to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, the only state source of funding for farmland preservation.

Advocate in partnership with American Farmland Trust and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition to protect state-level farmland preservation.

LOCAL FOOD SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT

Local food systems build resilient economies, thriving farms, and healthy families.

Support increased funding for the Small Farm & Direct Marketing and Farm to School Programs

These crucial programs help farmers navigate regulations and connect farms to markets. They are underfunded and understaffed.

Collaborate with the Good Food Coalition to advocate for an additional \$250,000 in 2016 funding for these programs.

Protect funding for Farmers Market Nutrition Programs

The Farmers Market Nutrition Programs provide coupons which connect low-income people to fresh fruits and vegetables while boosting sales for local farmers.

Collaborate with the Good Food Coalition to defend funding for this program.

Increase federal support for farm to school

Congress has the opportunity to increase funding and eliminate regulatory barriers for farm to school programs while reauthorizing the Child Nutrition Act.

Encourage Washington's federal delegation to support the policy recommendations in the Farm to School Act.

BEGINNING FARMERS AND RANCHERS

The average American farmer is 58 years old. America needs more farmers.

Expand the Farm Internship Project

The Farm Internship Project is a pilot program of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) which allows farms to legally and safely train unpaid interns.

Support L&I in expanding the Farm Internship Project to reach more farms.

Add farmers to the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

Student debt is a barrier to entry for new farmers. Congress should allow farmers to use the same debt forgiveness program as doctors and teachers.

Urge WA representatives to cosponsor the Young Farmer Success Act.