Washington State Department of Agriculture

OVERVIEW OF WASHINGTON AGRICULTURE

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Washington State Water Resources Association
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About Washington Farms

35,500
Total number of farms. About 95% family-owned.

300+
Number of crops grown in Washington

$10.2 billion
Market value of crops and livestock

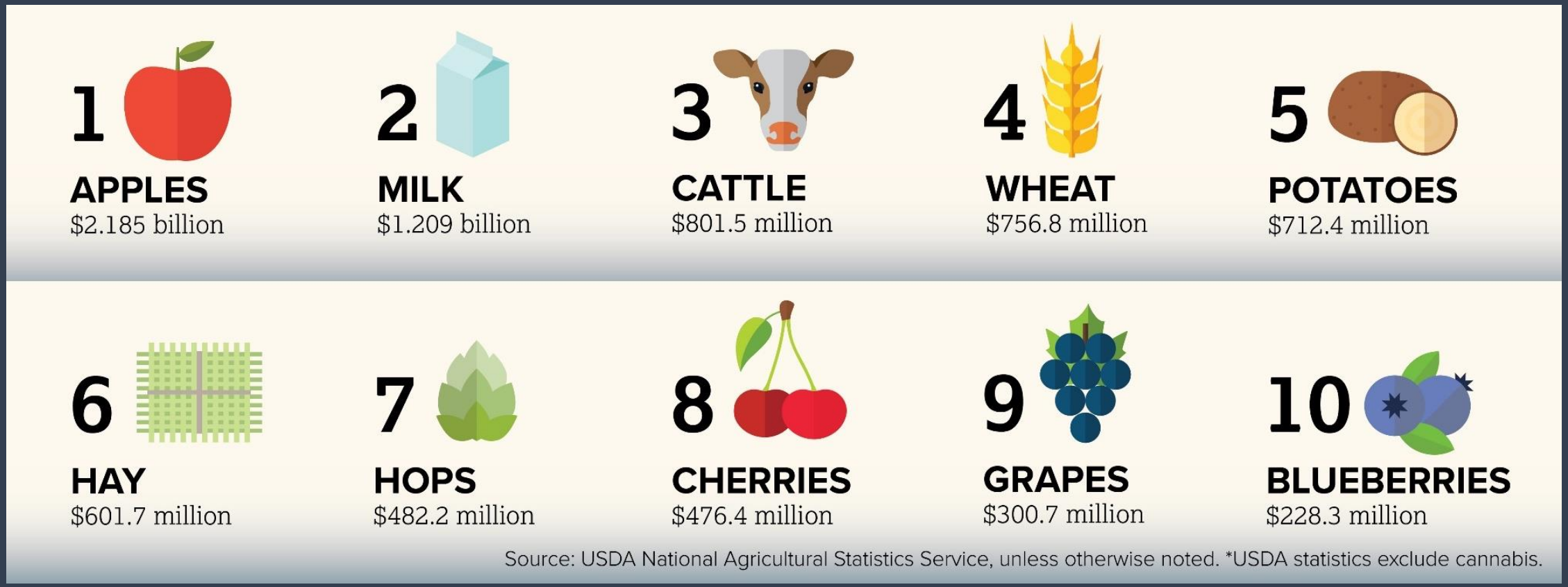
$2.19 billion
Dollar value of apples – State's top crop

89%
of Washington farms are small farms

82% - less than 180 acres
67% - less than 50 acres

164,000
People employed in ag and food industry

Washington's Top 10 (2021)



Top 5 Commodities Compared

2021

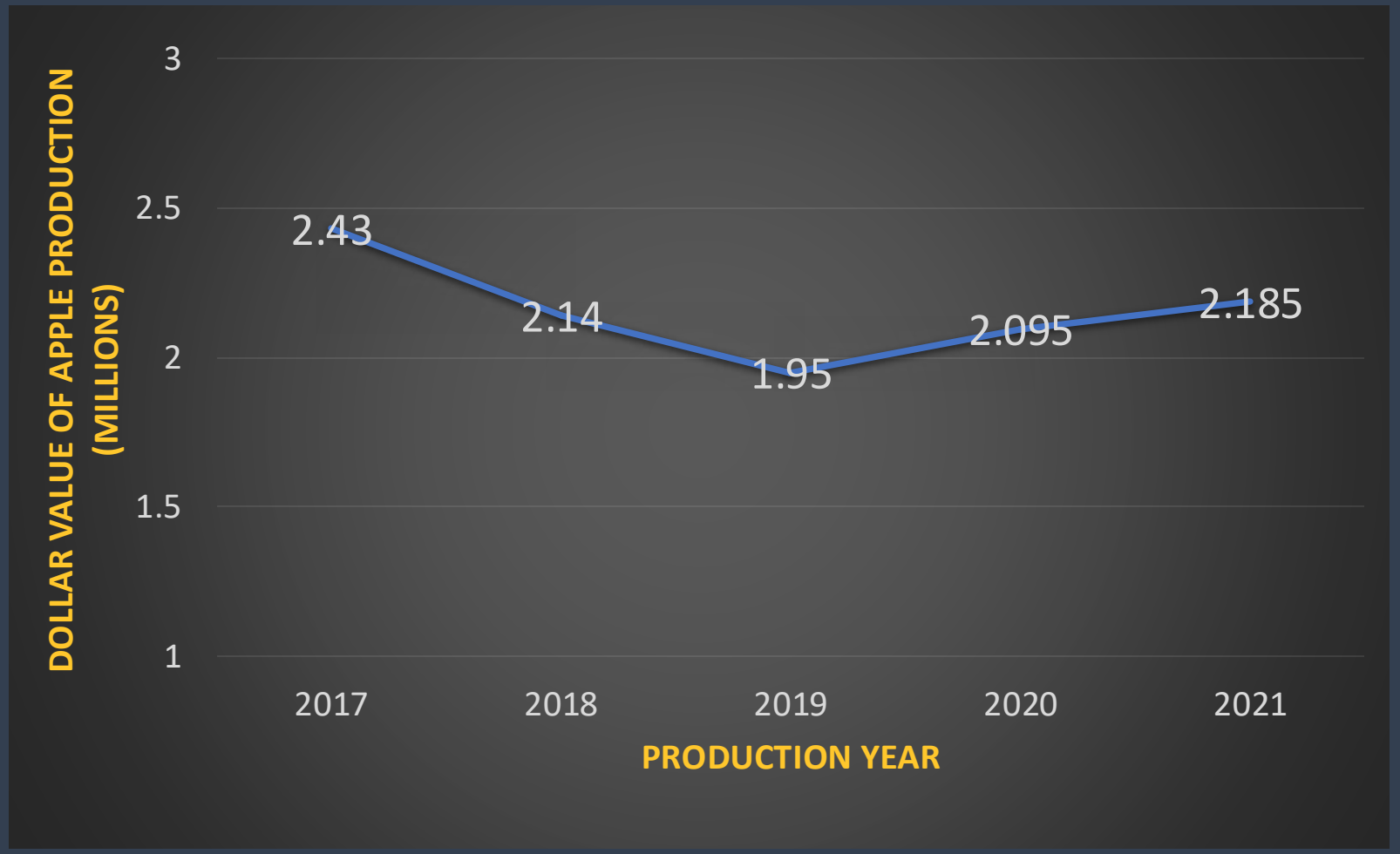
2020

Top Commodities Compared Contin.

2021

2020

Value of Apple Production Since 2017



Washington's Top Export Destinations and Export Products (2021)

Top Export Destinations	
Canada	$1.4 billion
Japan	$1.2 billion
China	$994 million
South Korea	$541 million
Mexico	$457 million

Top Export Products	
Fish and Seafood	$1.2 billion
Wheat	$960 million
Frozen French Fries	$847 million
Apples	$643 million
Dairy	$627 million

Agricultural Competitiveness in Washington

Major pressures on the agricultural industry

- Land access and availability
- Increasing input costs
- Labor
- Market infrastructure and support services
- Technical/research support
- Water availability
- Regulations
- Weather/climate
- Pest pressures (Little Cherry disease)

Photo credit: Dr. Andrea Bixby Brosi, WSU

Labor Impacts

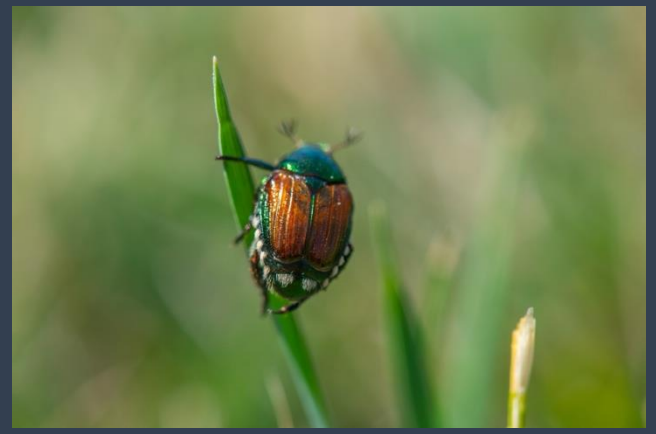
- Scarce workforce
- H-2A Program needs modernization
- Wages
  - State
  - Federal
- Health and Safety

2023-2025 Biennial Operating Budget

- WSDA submitted:
  - Two legislative proposals to Bill Enrollment and Agency Request System
  - Two supplemental requests
  - Twenty-three budget decision packages

2023 Key Decision Packages

- Agricultural Competitiveness and Economic Viability Analysis
- State Brand and Agricultural Promotion
- Washington State Organic Inspection Credit
- WA Soil Health Initiative – State of the Soils Investment
- Youth Agriculture Education Membership Enhancement
- Japanese Beetle Eradication



2023 Federal Farm Bill

- Conservation – NRCS Funding (Equip, RCPP, CRP, PL-566)
- Nutrition – SNAP
- Research – NIFA Funding (SCRI, AFRI)
- Trade – MAP, FMD
- Horticulture – Specialty Crop Block Grants, Farmers Markets

QUESTIONS?

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