



## Agricultural Suicide Prevention Program

In 2018, Second Substitute House Bill 2671 directed the Department of Health to convene a task force and establish a pilot program that would address behavioral health and suicide rates in Washington state's agricultural communities. The pilot program was implemented by Washington State University Skagit County Extension (WSU Skagit) in March 2019 based on the task force findings and recommendations.

WSU Skagit has taken long strides toward building an expandable and sustainable framework for improving behavioral health and preventing suicide across Washington's agricultural communities. In 2020, the pilot expanded to five additional counties in Washington, as well as to the WSU 4-H program, and is now an established program.

### Suicide Rates in Agriculture

According to Peterson et al. (2020), the male suicide rate (per 100,000) for farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural managers was 43.2 vs. the average male rate of 27.4.

### Coordinated Efforts/Partnerships

Organizations and programs include: Familias Unidas; Sea Mar Health Clinics; Safer Homes Suicide Aware; Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (PNASH); Western Regional Agricultural Stress Assistance Program (WRASAP); and WSDA.

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**95%** of Farms in Washington  
State are Family Farms.

## Community Engagement

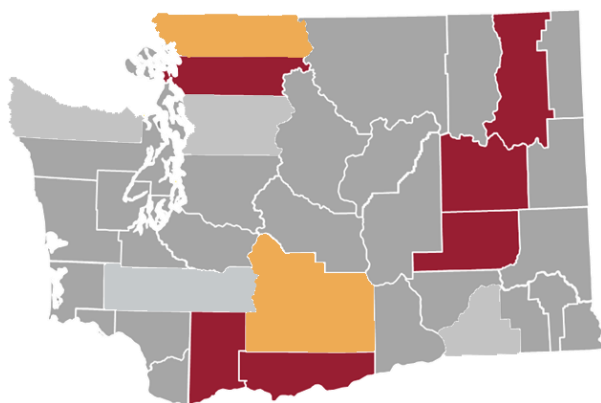
Through presentations and suicide prevention trainings, the program aims to increase awareness of suicide risks and warning signs in agricultural communities, and reduce stigma around behavioral health. Partners throughout the state help to disseminate educational and resource materials with agriculture-specific suicide warning signs including: jobsite posters; Farm Aid Resource Hotline and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline magnets; and radio/video PSAs.



If you or someone you know is struggling, call the Lifeline at **1-800-273-TALK (8255)**

## Statewide Expansion

In 2020, the program expanded beyond Skagit County to five additional counties in Washington: Stevens; Lincoln; Adams; Skamania; Klickitat; and WSU 4-H (30+ chapters throughout Washington). The program continues to grow and will expand to five new counties with partnerships in Snohomish, Walla Walla, Clallam, Lewis, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties.



■ 2020 Extension Expansion    ■ 2021 Extension Expansion  
■ 2021 External Stakeholder Expansion

## Estrés de los trabajadores agrícolas

The program has specific capacity to explore the needs of Washington's Latinx farmworkers and identify network and services available to address stress and suicide prevention in these communities. Efforts include tailoring culturally appropriate resources and materials for distribution.

## Available Resources

### Farmer Resource Hotline

1-800-FARM-AID  
(1-800-327-6243)  
Resource Line Hours:  
M-F, 6AM-7PM PST

### WSU Agricultural Suicide Prevention Website

[extension.wsu.edu/skagit/suicide-prevention](https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/suicide-prevention)

### WRASAP Website

[Farmstress.us](https://farmstress.us)

## CONTACT

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