Farms Under Threat: The State of the States mapped agricultural land conversion and evaluated state policy responses. The spatial analysis identified the extent, diversity, and quality of each state’s agricultural land—and where this land has been converted to both urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) land uses.

**Washington**

- **RELATIVE CONVERSION THREAT**: LOW
  - Washington scored among the lowest states for the conversion of agricultural land to urban and highly developed (UHD) and low-density residential (LDR) uses.

- **RELATIVE POLICY RESPONSE**: HIGH
  - Washington scored among the top states for policies and programs that protect agricultural land from development, promote farm viability, and facilitate the transfer of agricultural land.

- **HOW IS THIS STATE DOING?**
  - Washington is in a green box because its policy response is higher than its conversion threat, relative to other states. Learn more at [www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat](http://www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat)

**AGRICULTURAL LAND CONVERSION 2001-2016**

Conversion of non-federal farmland and rangeland to UHD and LDR land uses from 2001-2016. The threat to working farms and ranches is pervasive, often claiming the most productive, versatile, and resilient lands.

*Our productivity, versatility, and resiliency (PVR) index helps identify high-quality agricultural land (see page 2).

**Farmland**
- Farmland is composed of cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

**Rangeland**
- Rangeland is composed of grasslands, shrublands, and other non-cropland, pastureland, and woodland associated with farms.

Legend:
- Gray: Urban areas
- Yellow: Above state median PVR
- Green: Below state median PVR
- Red: Conversion of agricultural land to UHD and LDR land uses
- White: Federal, forest, and other lands

Learn more at [www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat](http://www.farmland.org/farmsunderthreat)
From 2001-2016, 97,800 acres of agricultural land were developed or compromised.

Washington's farmland and ranchland was converted to:
- **Urban and highly developed (UHD)** land use, including commercial, industrial, and moderate-to-high-density residential areas.
- **Low-density residential (LDR)** land use, where scattered large lot development fragments the agricultural land base and limits production, marketing, and management options for the working farms and ranches that remain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>2001 Acres</th>
<th>2016 Acres</th>
<th>Conversion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cropland</td>
<td>33,100</td>
<td>14,620</td>
<td>-51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pastureland</td>
<td>37,800</td>
<td>14,620</td>
<td>-59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rangeland</td>
<td>20,500</td>
<td>6,880</td>
<td>-66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woodland</td>
<td>6,600</td>
<td>305,500</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**50,100 acres**
- 51% of conversion was to UHD

**47,800 acres**
- 49% of conversion was to LDR

**LDR PAVES THE WAY FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT**

Agricultural land in LDR areas in 2001 was 70 TIMES MORE LIKELY to be converted to UHD by 2016, compared to other agricultural land.

**CONVERSION AFFECTED ALL TYPES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND**

**WASHINGTON'S BEST AGRICULTURAL LAND IS UNDER THREAT**

We used our unique **PVR index**, which quantifies the productivity, versatility, and resiliency of agricultural land, to identify:

1. **Washington's best land**, which has PVR values above the state median, and
2. **Nationally Significant land**, which is the country's best land for long-term production of food and other crops. 39% of Washington's agricultural land, or 6,011,900 acres, falls in this category.*

Protecting high-PVR land is critical for the long-term sustainability of agriculture, yet from 2001-2016:

- **52,500 acres** of Washington's best land were converted to UHD and LDR uses.
- **29,900 acres** of Washington's Nationally Significant land were converted.

*These two categories overlap and the same land may be included in both.

**What's at stake?**

- **15,398,200 acres** of agricultural land remain
  - Cropland: 6,749,800 acres
  - Pastureland: 1,462,000 acres
  - Rangeland: 6,880,800 acres
  - Woodland: 305,500 acres

- **$9.6 billion** earned from cash receipts in 2017
  - $683.3 million from local food
  - $4.0 billion from agricultural exports

- **97,800 acres** were converted—enough land to generate $61 million in annual revenue

- **Washington's top 3 agricultural products:**
  - Fruit and Tree Nuts
  - $3.4 billion
  - Vegetables
  - $1.1 billion
  - Milk and Dairy
  - $1.1 billion

- **64,300 producers and 284,900 farm laborers** on 35,800 farms

- **5 times as many producers over 65 as under 35 years old**

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**Farms Under Threat** is American Farmland Trust’s multi-year initiative to document the status of and threats to U.S. farmland and ranchland and to identify policy solutions to ensure the protection and conservation of America’s diverse agricultural landscape. For more information about AFT, visit [www.farmland.org](http://www.farmland.org). If you have any questions about the analysis methods or would like access to data, please contact AFT’s Farmland Information Center: [www.farmlandinfo.org](http://www.farmlandinfo.org) or (800) 370-4879.