

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Beginning Farmers Living Their Dreams**

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Avigail and Jorge Sanchez of Yakima County and Matt and Deanna Tregoning of King County have become the first beneficiaries of the Beginning Farmer/Rancher Program of the Washington State Housing Finance Commission. These beginning farmers were able to purchase and start their first farms. Dreams have come true.

The Sanchez family took advantage of low interest rates offered by a partnership between the Commission and Northwest Farm Credit Services. Through this program, beginning farmers receive loans with lower interest rates. Thanks to this partnership, Avigail and Jorge can now call 92 acres near Grandview in Yakima County their own. They plan to grow organic vegetables to meet the local demand for a greater variety of ethnic produce. Avigail Sanchez says, “We are grateful for the opportunity to serve this community and we plan to be here for a long, long time.”

Matt and Deanna Tregoning used the proceeds from their loan to purchase 19 acres near Carnation in King County. They will be growing organic vegetables and plan to be regulars at local farmers markets. Matt Tregoning says, “We are very excited and grateful that this program was available for us. We have many trays of starts in our greenhouse and look forward to more transplanting and seeding! With the weather beginning to break, we're going to be very busy!”

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Regarding the partnership with the Commission, Wendy Knopp, Assistant Vice President of Northwest Farm Credit Services says, “We are the leading agricultural lender in the state, and being able to partner with the Commission to bring even lower rates to beginning farmers is a win-win for all concerned.”

The Washington State Housing Finance Commission is a self-funding state entity that was given the authority by the legislature in 2005 to assist beginning farmers and ranchers with below market rate financing. It does this at no cost to the taxpayers of Washington State.

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<http://www.wshfc.org/FarmRanch/index.htm>

<http://www.farm-credit.com/>