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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2016

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Washington Grown Receives Multiple Emmy® Nominations

Washington Grown, a weekly television show dedicated to sharing Washington's Ag story with the public has been nominated for three different Emmy® Awards (Northwest Chapter of National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences). While these are not the first awards the show has earned (*Washington Grown* also won national Telly Awards in 2014 & 2015 and the host Kristi Gorenson was nominated for an Emmy® in 2014), these are the first Emmy® nominations the show itself has received.

During each episode viewers take a virtual journey following one of Washington's numerous agriculture products. Viewers have a chance to learn from one of the many family farms in Washington. They see how the farmers grow the highlighted crop, understand more about what food and farming mean to all Washingtonians, and then watch one of Washington's top chefs show how to prepare a tasty locally grown dish.

"Agriculture and the food our family farms are growing play such a dynamic part of Washington state yet many people are unaware of the impact that it has on each of us," said Chris Voigt, Executive Director of the Washington State Potato Commission. "That is why nearly five years ago our potato farmers committed to taking a proactive role in telling Washington agriculture's story and connecting people to our family farms and the food they grow. That is how *Washington Grown* was developed and we are all pleased to see these efforts being recognized for their quality."

Farming and food production provide a diverse agricultural economy to Washington state. According to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, each year the state's nearly 38,000 farms contribute close to \$50 billion towards the state's economy while employing more than 160,000 people. The collective strength of Washington's 300 different agriculture products are responsible for powering 13% of the state's economy annually.

The Washington State Potato Commission and the Washington Association of Wheat Growers were the founding partners that helped kick start the project. Washington Friends of Farms and Forest were also key contributors early on. Throughout the production of *Washington Grown*, dozens of family farms and local chefs have been showcased and numerous stories have been told. The show airs weekly throughout much of the year on NWCN-TV and KSPS-TV.

"The great part about the concept of the show is that there are no shortages of really interesting and compelling stories," said Dave Tanner, President of North by Northwest Productions, who produces the show. "Food is what brings us all together whether you live on a farm or in a high-rise in downtown Seattle. It is really fun to show how we are all connected by what we eat and what Washington's family farmers are growing."

The categories that *Washington Grown* has been nominated in are best Arts/Entertainment Program, best Informational/Instructional Program, and best Interview Discussion Program. The awards ceremony will be held in Seattle this June. Each episode can be viewed at www.wagrown.com.

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Host Kristi Gorenson on scene at El Gaucho Restaurant in Seattle



Filming at the WSU Creamery



Filming Sheep Shearing during Season 3



Farmer interview during Season 3



Washington Grown Logo