

Report puts ag drought losses up to \$400 mill.

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State report sees ripple effects to other econ. sectors

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This year's record drought will have a significant impact on Washington state's economy, according to a new state report.

Losses to the state's agricultural sector alone could range as high as \$400 million, said Eric Hurlburt with the Washington State Department of Agriculture in Olympia.

The report, compiled by WSDA, Office of Trade and Economic Development, Office of

Financial Management and Department of Ecology, said the sector of the state most affected by the drought is agriculture.

"The drought is expected to affect approximately 10 percent of the state's agricultural production, and exacerbates the existing economic challenges that Washington's farmers are currently experiencing," the report said. "Ripple effects can be felt throughout the economy, including food processing and other agriculture-dependent industries."

Much of the losses will be in Eastern Washington, with the Yakima Valley the hardest hit.

"A recent study of agricultural production by Northwest