

# Inflation Reduction Act in Action:

## NRCS Helps Family Farm Boldly Invest in Their Future

Amy Frye and Jacob Slosberg own Boldly Grown Farm, a 60-acre, certified organic, mixed vegetable farm in Skagit Valley, Washington. They grow and sell their products year-round, with their primary focus being high-quality fall and winter vegetables for wholesale markets. They also operate a 325-member winter Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) program, where members pay up front for a regular supply of fresh produce throughout the season, and a year-round farm stand. Amy and Jacob grow approximately 35 acres of vegetables plus grains, dry beans, flowers, seed crops, and eggs from their pasture-raised chickens.

Recently, Amy and Jacob utilized the Natural Resources Conservation Service's (NRCS) **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)** to enhance their operation's energy efficiency thanks to funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act.

**The Inflation Reduction Act** provides an additional \$19.5 billion for NRCS to deliver financial and technical assistance to producers for climate-smart mitigation activities through existing USDA conservation programs, like EQIP. When applied appropriately, these activities are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or increase carbon sequestration. Energy efficiency conservation practices like Energy Efficient Building Envelope can help to save energy or fuel use, which in turn can reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with fossil fuel energy production and fuels.

In the Spring of 2023, Amy, Jacob, and NRCS teamed up with the local Skagit Conservation District to utilize the first round of Inflation Reduction Act funding to make their packing warehouse more energy efficient. The project was completed in October of that year.



*Jacob Slosberg, co-owner of Boldly Grown Farm, talks while conducting quality control of some of their recently harvested yellow onions. Photo credit: Ian Carver, NRCS.*

“We received funding to help pay for an insulation package for the building to make it so that we are using less energy to heat it during the winter,” Jacob said.

In cases such as Boldly Grown Farm, the Inflation Reduction Act allows NRCS to help producers by connecting them with financial and technical assistance for climate-smart conservation practices.

As a farm that produces mostly fall and winter crops grown in the cooler Pacific Northwest climate, it is highly important to maintain storing and working temperatures above freezing to prevent damage to the produce. Keeping warmer indoor temperatures all winter comes at a high cost for a farm that utilizes diesel-powered heaters. That is why this insulation package was so important to Amy and Jacob.

“It is definitely saving us money and energy,” Jacob said. “We are reaping the benefits in both saved energy and costs like fuel that goes into the heater. It is also improving the quality of the produce by it reducing the freeze or cold damage.”

### Quick Farm Facts

Location: Bow, WA

Operation Type: Specialty crops

Climate-Smart Practices: Energy-Efficient Building Envelope

### The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)

IRA represents the single largest investment in climate and clean energy solutions in American history. It provides an additional \$19.5 billion over five years for climate-smart agriculture through existing NRCS conservation programs. [nrcs.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act](https://nrcs.usda.gov/inflation-reduction-act).

### Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF)

is an integrated approach that enables farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to respond to climate change by reducing or removing GHG emissions (mitigation) and adapting and building resilience (adaptation), while sustainably increasing agricultural productivity and incomes. View the [practice list](#).

### How to Apply

Learn more about the exciting opportunities to use Inflation Reduction Act funds for forest land conservation at your local USDA Service Center, which you can find at [farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers](https://farmers.gov/working-with-us/USDA-service-centers).



*As part of the first funding round of the Inflation Reduction Act, Amy Frye and Jacob Slosberg were able to complete an insulation installation project in their packing warehouse to improve heating and reduce energy use, helping to reduce freezing and loss. Photo credit: Ian Carver, NRCS.*

For Boldly Grown Farm, this project has greater implications than simply saving energy and money, while also reducing emissions. With a strong understanding of their agricultural community, Jacob discussed how this project has a multiplying effect in positive environmental outcomes.

“It increases produce storage capacity onsite and therefore improves local food access,” Jacob said, “which in-turn reduces miles driven to deliver food, which reduces greenhouse gas emissions.”

This recent project is just one of a few that Jacob and Amy have been working on with their local NRCS Field Office in Mount Vernon, Washington, since purchasing their land a few years ago.

“It’s been important to have a partner within NRCS that we can rely on to help us understand the strengths and limitations of certain programs,” said Jacob.

Over the years, Jacob and Amy have worked hard for their farm to be energy efficient, Certified Organic, Salmon Safe Certified, and Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) Certified. Earning and maintaining a farm with these credentials requires a great deal of knowledge, determination, and a love for the environment that is on full display with one look around their beautifully maintained property.



*The insulation installation project at their storage facility helps to reduce freezing and losses for vegetables like the ones being grown here. Photo credit: Ian Carver, NRCS.*