



April 27, 2022

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***PHOTO:** WFIA President & CEO Tammie Hetrick (center) poses with Bryce and Andrea Clemmer, co-founders of NW Farms, during the presentation of the WFIA 2021-22 Vendor of the Year Award. The award was presented at a surprise ceremony held April 27. (Photo courtesy of WFIA)*

NW Farms Honored as 2021-22 WFIA Vendor of the Year

LACEY — Bryce and Andrea Clemmer, co-founders of [NW Farms](#), the largest vertical indoor hydroponic farm in production the West Coast, have been named Vendor of the Year by the Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA). The award gives special recognition to an individual or individuals who have shown exceptional dedication and support to independent grocers in Washington state.

Nestled away quietly in a 25,000 square-foot Lacey business park, the farm grows six different kinds of lettuce that can be grown in just 20 days – three times faster than lettuce grown outdoors.

NW Farms' hydroponic operations are pesticide-free and use 90 percent less water than traditional farming operations. Their locations in Lacey and Auburn grow a variety of greens, herbs and berries for consumers to enjoy whether purchased from a local grocer or in a local restaurant.

“Washington state’s food industry is fortunate to have this industry leader in our own backyard,” said WFIA President and CEO Tammie Hetrick. “NW Farms is taking sustainability to the next level when it comes to farming, growing sizable amounts of fresh produce and herbs for the region in and around Puget Sound. As a result of their sustainable practices, NW Farms will save over 100 million gallons of water in a year to grow their produce and herbs for area grocers.”

The farm supplies produce to local, regional and national distributors, foodservice, manufacturers and retail customers within 1-2 days of harvest. During the pandemic, their ability to make produce available locally has made them a reliable source of fresh produce and herbs for retailers, restaurants and consumers in the South Sound.

“The food industry continues to look for better and more innovative ways to feed people in a sustainable manner. NW Farms sets the standard while meeting the needs of retailers and consumers,” added Hetrick. “For this, we honor NW Farms with our 2021-22 Vendor of the Year award.”

About the Washington Food Industry Association

The Washington Food Industry Association (WFIA) is dedicated to promoting and protecting the independent, community-focused grocery and convenience store industry and its suppliers. Founded in 1899, the WFIA represents the state’s independent grocers and convenience stores. Membership includes all levels of the food and beverage distribution industry who collaborate to promote the principles of free enterprise to ensure a vigorous, competitive, economically healthy food industry. The grocery and convenience store industry provides about 50,000 Washington jobs. For more information, visit www.wa-food-ind.org.