

Washington State Food Tax Stamp

In 1933 Agricultural Adjustment Act created a set of stamps for Apples and a stamp for Rhubarb but the act was declared unconstitutional and the stamps were discontinued. As a result the Washington State Food stamps started in earnest with the 1937 state law for required taxation of the Apple Stamp.

This is a revenue exhibit showing the history of the Washington State Food Tax stamps. The first issues of 1934/35 which were declared unconstitutional will be shown and then the focus will be on the stamps from 1934 and on.

The plan is to show the various food products that were taxed

1934/35 The Washington Apple program was set up and a rate of 1 cent per box was charged. Late in 1934, the rate was cut to 1/2c per box and stamps were overprinted to reflect this. The single Rhubarb stamp was issued in 1935. Tomato/Cucumber stamps were issued in 1935 but were short lived. All were declared unconstitutional.

Apple House bill No. 617 signed by the governor March 17, 1937 was for the advertising and promotion of the state Apple industry. Stamps were issued, placed on documents, sent to the State to be audited and destroyed 5 years later. On August 23, 1961, Washington State Apple Commission adopted new regulations demonetizing the stamps it had issued. In place of the stamps was a "variable stamp" that had pertinent information filled in by hand thus making the Apple stamp obsolete

Egg law was enacted in 1933 as a means of enforcement of grades and standards relative to size and quality and collect a tax which is based on a mill levy bases. (one dollar per thousand dollars)

Fruit commission used tax stamps from 1947 to 1952. The first series was cherry only and had 7 values. The follow on printings were used for all soft fruit shipments.

Honey stamps were first produced in Washington from 1939 to 1961 to pay the tax of 1/5c per pound. In 1941 honey packers were authorized to have the Washington honey stamps printed on their labels or containers.

Potato & Potato Tags The potato commission was established under a marketing order, effective July, 1956 with stamps issue in 1959.

Melon and Tomato marketing agreement between Washington and Oregon this was established to set prices for the growers by the growers in order to make a profit. The disruptors were setting the price and in most cases the growers were not covering expenses. These were "Cinderella" stamps since they were not issued by the State.