

Food and farm issues

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Thanks for the invitation. . . First of many conversations. . . .



We all recognize tremendous political support and interest. . .



Didn't invite folks- you can see them at every market- on their farms- at the tour- they are busy growing- we need to be busy working together to make it easier and more profitable.!!



Planning- 21st century issues



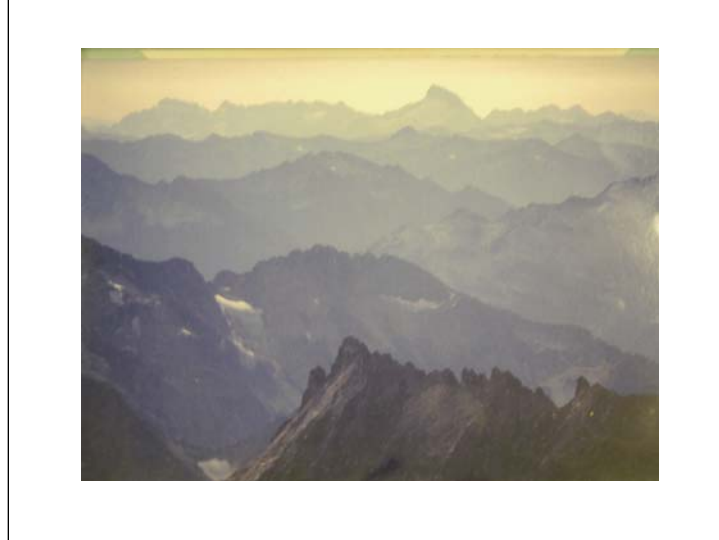
We know the open fields of the county-

Hope to give you an idea of the history. .some of the stories of the landscapes. .what you'll see in the tour, and some of the issues looming over our landscape

Historically Jefferson County is a
place based- **food based community**

- Sense of RURAL. . .
- Sense of self reliance- island isolation
- Sense of community- 4H, intergenerational
- Sense of place- coming home-
- Salmon- - we are chinooks!
- Strong GMA battles- categorized MORE

A little libertarian- I'll take care of it myself. . . Fiddling/ fixing/ on our own!!!



Important to say something about our food shed and bioregions

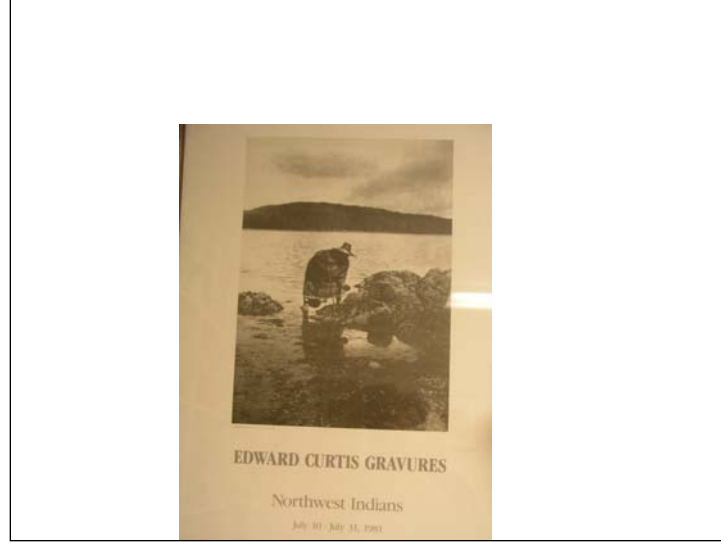
3-17-148 inches of rain

Several microclimates

Soil better than grandson!

With this feed the world!

Grow year around without irrigation



Abundance and potlatch economy



POTLATCH!!!! Community wealth.

in Jefferson County-- still #1 in world-- only place natural spawn in world is in Dabob Bay--
More dollar value out of the Port of Seattle more than apples.
about 9000 acres of shellfish beds managed by one company



1910 Jefferson County dairy. . . \$80,000 in hops in 1910– real money- prohibition!! Indian crews!!!

Dairy always important because this county grows grass/ hay well -- the fields of Sequim that support that fires and elk

1940 Ag census 136,500 animals

1950 Ag census 382,932 animals



WSU Jefferson County Extension in county since 1914. . . . Kitsap Jefferson Goat club in 1914



Very proud of our tradition. . . .

Mr Yarr was later admitted to the Harvard Native Football Hall of Fame. . .

Egg and I road is part of our tradition

.

All the eggs produced on the Olympic Peninsula were marketed locally due to the cost of the ferry transportation. By 1951 about half the local milk production was shipped to Seattle and another 1/4 to Bremerton.



Our most important ag product was and still is shellfish!!!! . . Have to remember that fish feed this region for over 10,000 years and now the canary is dying. . .



In 1932

The depression hit local farms hard.. .

. . \$85,000 of bond were issued for the Chimacum drainage project. Some of the levies were two and three times the normal real property tax of the farm. Interest on delinquent payments ran as high as 10%. Many farms were lost.

A little history. . . . Or we repeat it

- “This year the first watershed district in Chimacum Valley was finally started!!! “
- 1923 Extension annual report

Sometimes we don't come as far as we think

- “. .. Water systems and sewage disposal have received the greatest attention this year. Those installed last year are reported very satisfaction”.

- County Agent W. O. Passman
- 1926 Extension Annual report

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Egg and I

- “In 1932 the State started to buy drainage district bonds at 40 cents on the dollar and interest on the bonds was reduced from 7% to 2% this refinancing saved many farms but the majority never fully recovered from the financial burden. This evidence is exhibited by the run down condition of farm buildings and especially pastures on peat soils. “
1951 report

All the eggs produced on the Olympic Peninsula were marketed locally due to the cost of the ferry transportation. By 1951 about half the local milk production was shipped to Seattle and another 1/4 to Bremerton

8 ferries a day from Brinnon to Pike Street Market

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Some of the same families

- “. . Mr Yarr of Chimacum completed construction of the second liquid manure tank in Chimacum this month”. . . .

– County Agent Melvin C. Haugan November 1938

And war. . . Then as now

- “. . .the first separate milking barn was completed by L. O. Gleason on the Harry Peterson farm. . .Arthur Cays of Dabob completed a new poultry house of 300 birds. We conduct black out training every week now” . . .

- » County Agent Melvin Hougan
- » 1941 Extension annual report

History- A little bit of history

- “.. In response to numerous requests, we were able to obtain the cooperation of the Bureau of Entomology in a program of earwig control in the town of Port Townsend. Fifteen hundred fly parasites of the European earwig were ordered and will be released around the Courthouse the worst infestation. Approximately 3000 earwigs were captured daily”. *1939 Extension annual report*
- *1979 Don Tapio: moths for tansy ragwort. . .*

County Agnet Melvin C. Haugan 1939 report

History -The west end????

- “. . In September it took three days by ferry, horseback and car for me to reach Neah Bay where I set up a nutrition program for local Indian women

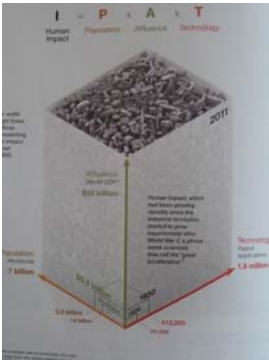
- » County Agent Claire Bemis
- » 1941-1943 Extension Annual report

1995 GMA

Commercially sustainable ag

- 1995- GMA- Soils
- In fact: 2010:
- Natural systems, water, micro-climate, crops, seeds, entrepreneurship, business skills, expertise in Ag, personal skills, access to capital, market, transportation, timing, cooperation/ collaboration/
- If not money then a hug!

Responding to 20% growth



1995 Designate Ag land of commercial significance- soils



Ag is changing-



European- greenhouses

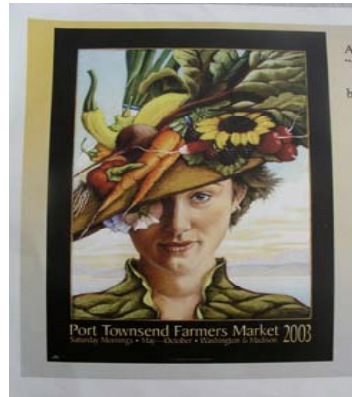


Montreal and Detroit vertical gardens Walmart roof top production



Upward Inspiration
Inspired by the mini-urban gardens, French architect and artist Patrick Blanc identified a system for growing plants on walls based with his, creating the first modular vertical garden in the 1980s. Since then, there's a growing garden here because walls remained, and made much more vertical growing like have become used to find. Though it would be difficult to create Blanc's lush living wall gardens, you can get inspired from his genius when designing your own vertical garden.
<http://www.upwardinspiration.com>

We have another chance
Noah's Ark



Our shared future?
The last best green space
and the future of our economy



Last green space left in Puget sound!!! We see ourselves as unique green space in the region

Our future??? Organic food supplier to the urban core
2.5 hours from 5 million of the richest food consumers in the world

Noah's arc- last best green space



Wheat research- grains 12% -- 16% protein!!! Need large spaces!!!

What is grown in Jefferson
County?



Overview: What do we grow?

- Anything!!! More diverse than we think!
- Vegetables, seeds, grass-fed beef, mushrooms, shellfish, seaweeds, dairy, goats, sheep, poultry dairy, eggs, flowers, compost, 5 #s of sprouts!
- Farms in transition
- 1890-1930- berries, hops, turkeys, eggs
 - 1930-50s dairy
 - 1950s-1990s beef livestock
 - 2002-2010. . . . Niche high value speciality markets proteins (fish, meat, grains) organic seeds

What's the local market?

-
- Annually, the average American spends... multiply by 30,000 pop.
- Food - \$6,443
- Food at home – \$3744
- Beef – \$239
- Pork – \$163
- Poultry – \$159
- Fish and seafood – \$128
- Eggs – \$51
- Dairy products – \$430
- Fresh fruits – \$222
- Fresh vegetables – \$212
- \$129Food away from home \$2,698
- *Source: Consumer Expenditure Survey, 2008. "Region of residence: Average annual expenditures and characteristics."*

Who are the farmers?
Changing face of agriculture



Profile: Who are farmers?

- 66% - 135 men – avg age 60- - 66% have 20 years on the land -79%expect to be farming 5 years from now
- 76 young women 20-35 are fastest growing segment- nationally, Washington locally
- 843 acres certified organic –
- Total organic \$576,000+ from 22 certified farms in 2007

Profile: Age of local farmers

- County has 2nd oldest median landowner in State (San Juan)

34% over 60 years to 77

31% over 50 (65% over 50)

23% 40-49

12% under 29 years

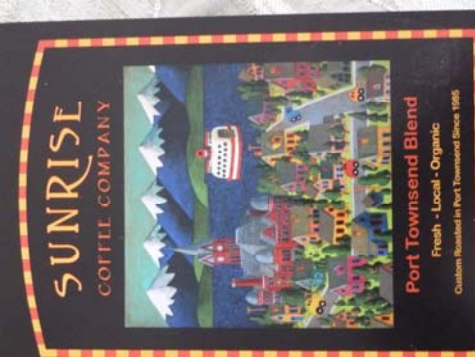
Profile: What do farmers need:

- 2002 first survey: health care, affordable land, willingness customers to pay
- 2005 affordable land, labor, willingness customers to pay
- 2007 health dept regs, labor, willingness customers to pay
- 2009- chef, commercial kitchen space, willing customers
- 2010 access to capital, intern L&I , housing for labor, local processing/storage!

Access to new markets



Secondary support industries



It's a story of transition-
from one generation- lifestyle to another
that's about leadership- and planning



Could even say gender-- but certainly generational issues are important to understanding the community

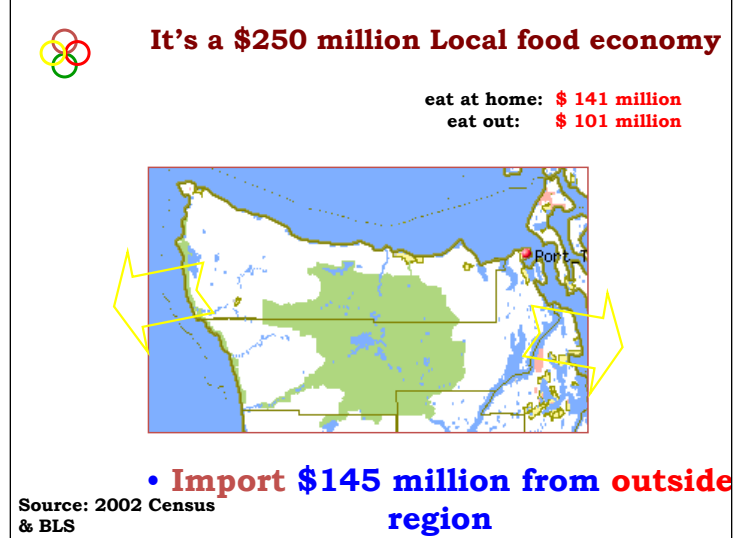
Legacy of GMA – not done well.

**The number of farms selling
livestock fell 24%
from 1997 - 2002**

Starting to see the conversion - liquidation of large salmon/ water friendly parcels and losing the natural resource landscape- this is of course the GMA obligation of Ecology!!!

The New Food Economy?

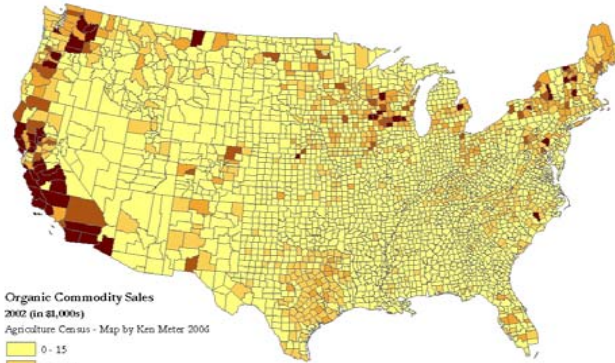
- High value- high nutrition niche- organic foods
- Local- 100 mile diet
- Health concerns- cancer/ obesity/ diabetes
- Costs of oil- distribution and processing
- Innovation- micro high cash value production



We import about 50% or \$145 million from OUTSIDE THE region!!



**Organic – fastest growing trend-
America's breadbasket is now in the west. . .**



Organic Commodity Sales
2002 (in \$1,000s)
Agriculture Census - Map by Ken Meter 2006

0 - 15
16 - 149
150 - 499
500 - 999
1,000 - 25,852

The Local Trend more farmland

- Two county area: Average size of farm
Increased 10%
- from 83 acres in 1992
- to 91 acres in 1997

- Total farm land increased 36%
- from 9,603 acres in 1992
- to 13,091 acres in 1997

Ag lands of local significance

The Local Trend more farmers

- 29% increase in local full time farmers
- 38 farms in 1992 to
- 49 farms in 1997

Local Trend: good economy

- Market Value of Ag products sold Increased 29% from 1992-1997
- Labor increased by 18%
- Fastest growing segment of the local economy
- Policy Benefits? Clean, minimum infrastructure, increased tax base, young families, high amenity, high value tourism!

1997 Agricultural report

Livestock- critical indicator- age of farmer- ease of farming- no new investments- no local food security- no local processing- its an export market with very little value added!!!!

Trend:
New farm investment

- Moving back to the land
How long have you farmed?
- 35% less than 5 years
- 31% 10-20 years
- 11 % 21-30 years
- 12% more than 40 years !
- 2002 WSU Farm Survey
- \$3.1 million in new farm investment- landworks, LION, individual, coop etc

Local Trend: more growers. . .

- Number of local farms
 - 236 in 1920
 - 441 in 1950- post war return of families
 - 38 in 1992
 - 49 in 1997
 - 70 in 2002
 - 40 in WSU Cultivating Success class 2005
 - 50 in WSU Cultivating Success class in 2006
 - 162 growers listed in national economic data- 2007 new census coming
- **136 farms (21%) sell directly to consumers- 160 local vendors at coop**



Trend- local- no longer national

- **43% rise in number of farms selling direct (1997-2002)**
- **22% increase in direct sales**
- **2% of total farm sales is direct 2007**
Four times national average
1/2 of 1% !
4% in 2010



Can we really be self reliant ?

- Total export from the region \$160 million each year!
- 12 times the value of all products produced in the region
- 66% of the value of all food consumed in the region
Enough to buy food for everyone's home use!

**(enough to buy food
for everyone's home use)**

Olympic Peninsula is a \$450 million a year food market

½ is in home

½ is out of home

If we increased our local consumption by 10% that would be

\$25 million more a year to invest in local food and farms!

If we bought locally– we could grow all the % of food people NOW

Eat in their homes- 50% caloric reduction- Cuba!

We live 3 hours from 5 million food consumers- Vancouver-Pdt

Seattle Metro Market is \$6 billion food eaten at home

Meats,poultry, fish and eggs \$899 million

Fruits and vegetables 662 million

Dairy products 463 million

10% of the Seattle market is. . . .enough!



WSU Extension sponsors an Annual Farm Summit in December to bring all the producers, marketers and processors together- they compare the year, set goals, and develop a common strategy to support each other and promote local food and farm production. The event is attended by University researchers, legislators, land trusts, grocers, educators, and farmers.

It helps build a sense of cohesion and unity among all the sectors of the local food community.

Support agri-tourism



Energize new generation ag
Entrepreneurs



Strategies- Encourage Entrepreneurship



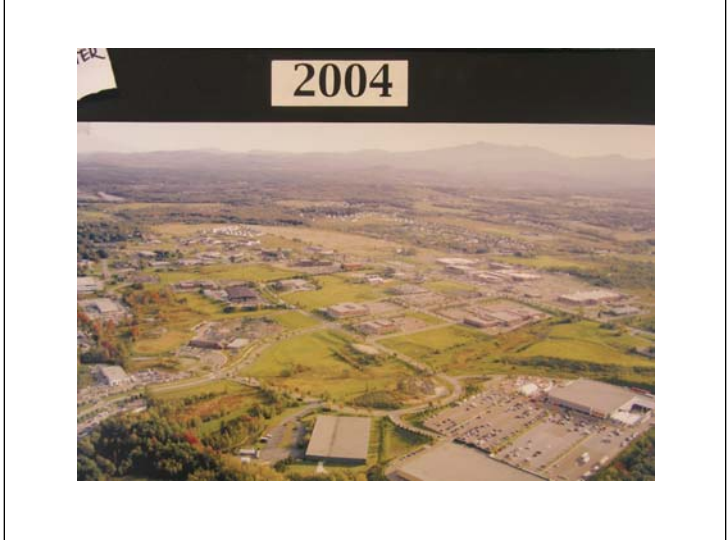
Food entrepreneurs- Make it here-- Sell it There

Mount Townsend Creamery- first new local dairy producer in 35 years. . Sells out every week!!!



Protect economically viable farm lands- Amazing series of photos

Could be Sequim-- could be here!!!



Attract and support young entrepreneur/
farmers





Allow diversification on the farm- recognize three families- three generations- three businesses- need room for complexity!!
Chris Lwellyn .former County Parks in Kitsap. .look at those faces. .now three generation of women on the farm!!! Heirloom tomatoes. Horses.. . Polar fleece clothes to Fair Trade coffee bags!! Hard working !!



Recognize small- off the grid- appropriate technology

Steve is a genius, woodworker !! But creative greenhouse, peppers. . Composts restaurant waste!!



Allow for agritourism EVERYWHERE!!!! Don't make some rich and some poor- let the market decide
Julie Boggs- 3rd generation Westerman farm- in Valley. . Chuck is the fire chief and likes kids!

Award winning beef sperm. . .



Protect the natural systems- soil/ water/ filtration/ fertility-
If 10% organic nationally – equivalent to ½ the cars
Carbon sink may be our most important product in the future



Recognize this is about people-

Engaging them empowering them- as any organization people most important asset

Either work with you or fight- compliance or defiance. . . If don't do right/ risk anarchy and

Damage to good people

Roger Short. . . Composting. . Most critical issue is soil fertility- hard place to farm

30 years of breeding. .

Wanted to do cheese

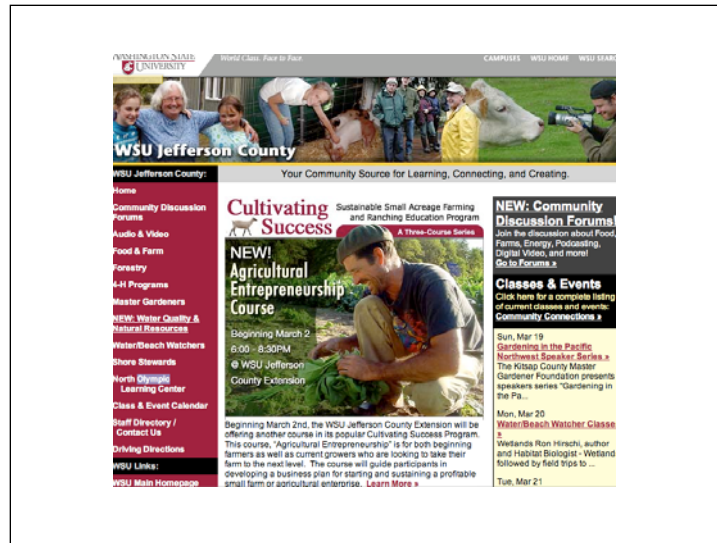


Focus on high value niche markets- don't compete quantity compete quality
111

Building a cheese industry- one is not enough- have goats coming on. .



World class- award winning- puts us on the map for other opportunities 125 acres of Tyler Wild Harvest. . . . Award winning Mystery Bay Cheese



Fund education!! No money going into food and farm from 2002- 2010- supported it / subsidized it/ got tired of caring the load
In 1995 we had the chance to pull the community together and start a new learning center



We know what we don't want



We know what got us into trouble!!!

Challenge- losing public funding



New products never thought of before



Organic Seeds- John Navazio





Question is can we learn from the bioneers/ pioneers
Enjoy the successes

40% Bush's job was Pane D'amore



Can we use food to rebuild community and connection



Can we listen to the wisdom of place and landscape and forge a self reliant, health community and
Grow our economy while we do???

Public Policy

- **Prioritize: a Health-centered Food System** - Improving the health of the nation's residents must be a priority in developing policies, programs, and funding.
- **Fund: Long Term Sustainable Food and Farm- Agricultural Practices**
 - Promote farming systems and agricultural techniques that prioritize the protection of the environment so that the soil, air, and water will be able to continue producing food long into the future
- **Invest: Community Resilience**
 - Enhance food security by strengthening the viability of small and mid-scale farms, and increasing appropriately scaled processing facilities, distribution networks, and direct marketing. Develop strategies that foster resiliency, local innovation, interdependence, and community development. Ensure equitable income for
- **Ensure: Equitable Access to Healthy Food**
 - Identify opportunities and reduce barriers by developing policies and programs that increase the availability of and improve the proximity of healthy, affordable, and culturally-relevant food
- **Lead: A Systems Approach to Policymaking- Work together and be bold!**
 - It is essential to reduce compartmentalization of policies and programs, and to approach policy decisions by assessing their impact on all aspects of the food system including production, processing, distribution, marketing, consumption, and waste management. Consider the interrelated effects of policies and align expected outcomes to meet the goal of a comprehensive health focused food system.

- **Prioritize, Fund, Invest, Ensure | LEAD!!!**

Thanks- good eating. . . .



