



Photo by Adam Sanchez



Photo by Chris Benedict



Photo by Don McMoran

WSU Skagit County Extension

Skagit County Agriculture Statistics

2015

Skagit County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION





Greetings!

Washington State University Skagit County Extension has been keeping crop records since 1922. Information is compiled from processing companies, farm organizations, growers, field representatives, media sources, and University sources.

Agricultural statistics with related written details are important for several reasons:

- ♦ Figures show the past production history of farming in a community;
- ♦ Statistics show the ups and downs of agriculture in relationship to weather, economics, urban encroachment, disasters, or a shift in production to other areas;
- ♦ Figures give a basis on which to make important decisions for land-use planning, zoning, and economic development planning related to agriculture.

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Feel free to give us a call if we can help you better understand the enclosed information.

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Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance economic well-being and quality of life by connecting them to the knowledge base of the university and by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.



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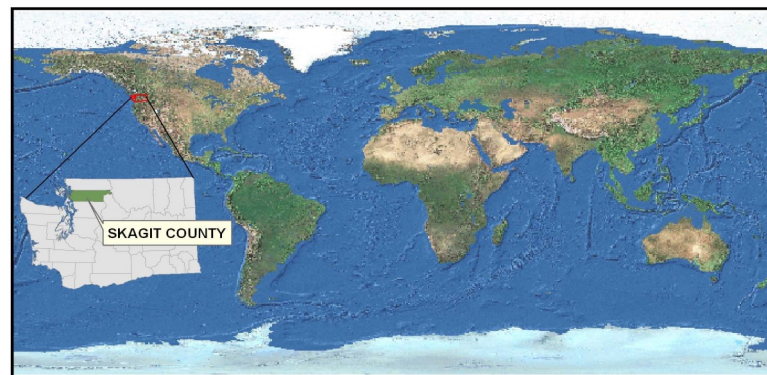
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GEOGRAPHY

Skagit County is 60 miles north of Seattle. It is 24 miles wide (north and south) and 95 miles long (east and west). Several islands in the Puget Sound area are included in the county. Snowcapped Mount Baker (in Whatcom County), elevation 10,000 feet, dominates the northeastern edge of the county and is the start of the North Cascades wilderness area and National Park. The Skagit River, which is famous for steelhead and salmon fishing and serves as important bald eagle feeding grounds, begins in the North Cascade mountain area. The upper Skagit has three hydro-electric dams which provide power for the northwest. Below the dams, the Skagit is fed by the Sauk, Cascade, Suiattle and Baker rivers. The Skagit River flows through the “upper valley” and continues through thousands of acres of fertile farmland before emptying into Puget Sound.



CLIMATE

Cool, marine temperatures and an abundance of moisture is evidenced by the lush growth of forest, pastures and agricultural crops in Skagit County.

Rainfall. The “rule of thumb” is to add one inch of moisture for each mile traveled east from Puget Sound. Anacortes averages 25 inches per year; Marblemount, 95 inches per year. The driest year since 1948 was in 1987, when precipitation total was 20.71 inches. The wettest year was 1990, with 47.20 inches.

Approximately 20% of the rainfall in Mount Vernon occurs June through September. The sun shines 65% of the time in summer, and 25% of the time in winter.

TEMPERATURE:

The highest temperature ever on record at the WSU Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center at Mount Vernon, was 98° F on August 9, 1960. The average summer temperature is 73° F. The highest recorded winter temperature for December, January and February was 65° F. The lowest temperature on record was -4° F. on January 26, 1957. WSU NWREC has been keeping records since 1948. (See chart on next page).



Photo by WSU SCMG Sheri Hunter



2015 WEATHER PICTURE

The winter of 2014/2015 started off with a cold snap early but was relatively mild. Nonetheless the cold weather had an adverse impact on the perennial cropping systems in Skagit County with temperatures getting down to 20.4 degrees on November 13, 2014. This event resulted in killing off 25% of cabbage and 30% of raspberry and blackberry plantings. Spring was a great one with many farmers getting planting done well ahead of schedule. Farmers received small rainfall events in March but hardly enough to keep them out of their fields. April was go time in 2015 when farmers were able to have a good shot of weather to get crops in the ground with only a few days of downtime for rain on April 21 and 22. May was another fabulous planting month with only 0.6 of an inch of precipitation falling at WSU NWREC in Mount Vernon. 2015 will go down in the record books as a fabulous spring in western Washington. Summer turned out some of the hottest, driest weather we have ever seen in western Washington and farmers irrigated as much as humanly possible but still saw crop losses. October started off with 3.39 inches of rain and made the remaining harvest difficult, but November closed the door on harvest with 7.85 inches of rain falling at WSU NWREC. Over 1000 acres of potatoes were once again left in the ground in the winter of 2015-2016.

month	High	Low	Average air temp	Precipitation
<i>January</i>	50.9	37.6	43.5	4.69
<i>February</i>	54.6	40.9	47.5	2.97
<i>March</i>	57.6	41.6	49.3	2.51
<i>April</i>	58.8	40.7	49.6	1.48
<i>May</i>	66.7	46.9	56.3	0.6
<i>June</i>	74.4	51.2	62.8	0.61
<i>July</i>	77.7	55.2	65.9	0.11
<i>August</i>	75.6	53.4	64.3	1.46
<i>September</i>	66.5	48.3	57.2	2.12
<i>October</i>	62.7	46.6	54.4	3.39
<i>November</i>	49.4	34.0	41.7	7.85
<i>December</i>	47.1	37.7	42.2	7.05
				Year Total – 34.84

Source: <http://www.weather.wsu.edu/>

I  FARMING



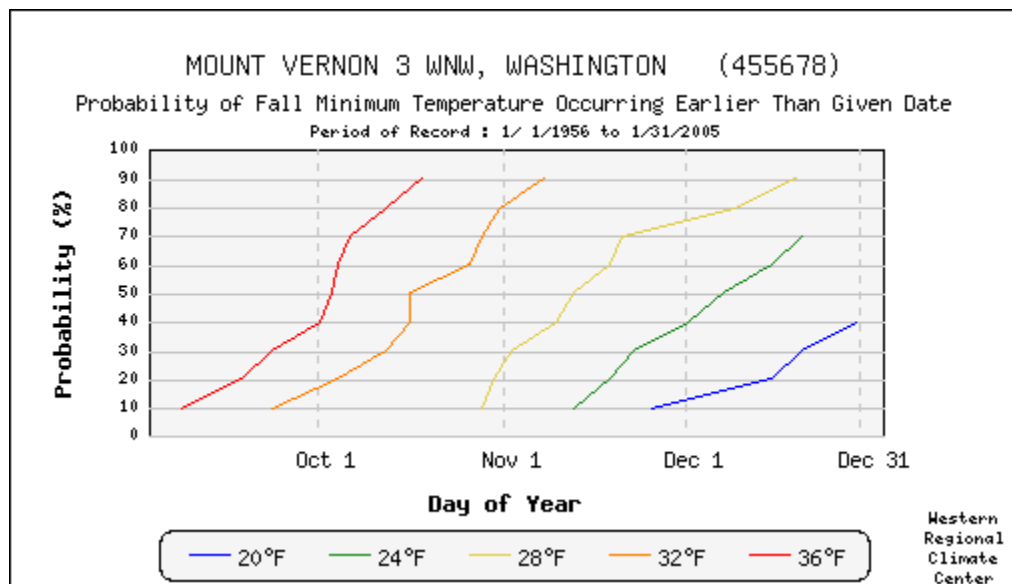
FROST FREE DAYS:

The lower Skagit Valley area has approximately 230 growing days and the upper valley has approximately 200 growing days. The last spring frost in the lower valley is estimated to occur about April 15, and the first fall frost occurs about October 15.

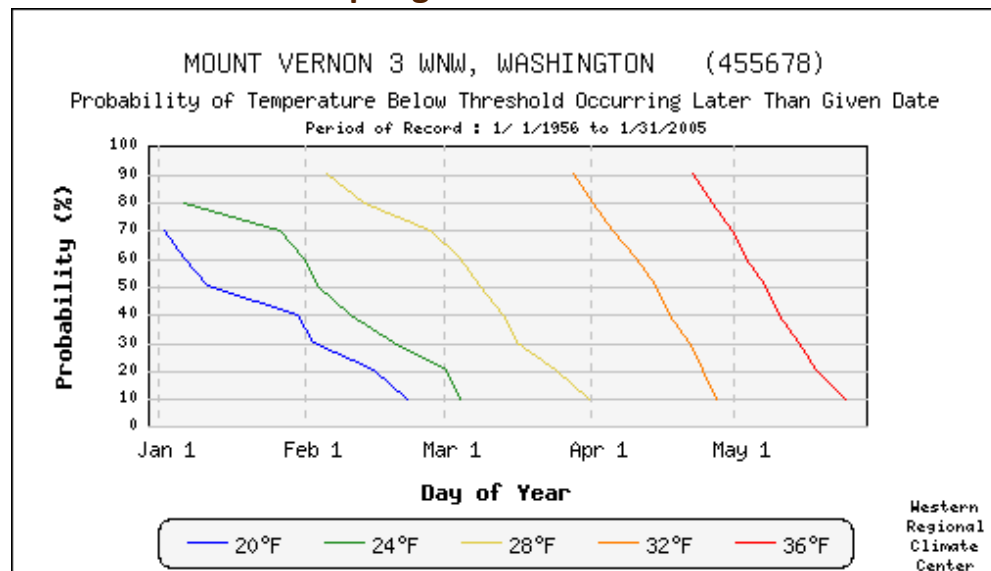


Photography by Don McMoran

Fall Freeze Probabilities



Spring Freeze Probabilities





IRRIGATION

In July and August, irrigation was used on approximately 20,000 acres of cropland in 2015. This was slightly above average for Skagit County due to the summer drought. The main crops irrigated were grass pasture, berries, potatoes, vegetable seed crops and tree fruits.

SOILS

The Skagit Valley was formed by water-deposited (alluvial) soils. Most cropland and pasture land in the county is located in the floodplain-delta area. This area covers the valley floor and extends east along the Skagit River and its tributaries. There are five primary soil types in the floodplain-delta area. Three types are located in the floodplain: Skagit (26%), which consists of silt loam, silty clay loam, and a small amount of very fine sandy loam; Sumas (15%); and Field (14%). The other two types are found along the Skagit River: Lorus (17%) and Pilchuck (14%). Floodplain soils are highly productive under dry land farming. Elevation in this area ranges from sea level to 500 feet. The high amount of rainfall makes the soils acid; therefore, lime is required to grow most crops.

Soil wetness is the major limitation for crops in the floodplain area. The Skagit and Samish Rivers have had a long history of flooding. The Skagit River, from just west of Sedro-Woolley to the Puget Sound, is protected from flooding by dikes and levees. The floodplain areas along the lower reaches of the Samish River, below Thomas Creek, are flooded almost every year.

AGRICULTURE: SKAGIT FACTS

- ♦ Skagit County is a major producer of cabbage, table beet, and spinach seed for the world. There are six vegetable seed companies in the county, most of which market products worldwide.
- ♦ There are two remaining processing companies in Skagit County: Sakuma Brothers and Gielow Pickles.
- ♦ There are two major ag-supply dealers in the Valley: Skagit Farmers Supply and Wilbur-Ellis provide supplies and services to farmers.
- ♦ More tulip, daffodil, and iris bulbs are produced in Skagit County than in any county in the United States.
- ♦ Skagit County ranks fifth in dairy production in Washington State.
- ♦ About 10,000 Trumpeter and Tundra swans, 100,000 Snow geese, and thousands more of mallard and other dabbling ducks utilize Skagit farmland for food and habitat. Skagit County is host to one of the highest concentrations of raptors, which also utilize farmland, in North America.
- ♦ Every year since 1999 approximately 20,000 visitors enjoy the Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms.





AGRICULTURAL LABOR

Minimum wage in the state of Washington is the highest in the country, the result of a 1998 citizens' initiative passed by voters that links the minimum wage to the Federal Consumer Price Index.



Photo by Don McMoran

SKAGIT COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014
43,273	52,381	64,138	79,555	102,300	116,910	118,837

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Washington State Minimum Wage

Effective Date	Dollars per Hour
January 1, 1968	1.60
January 1, 1974	1.80
September 1, 1975	2.00
January 1, 1976	2.30
January 1, 1989	3.85
January 1, 1990	4.25
January 1, 1994	4.90
September 1, 1997 (Federal minimum wage changed)	5.15
January 1, 1999	5.70
January 1, 2000	6.50
January 1, 2001	6.72
January 1, 2002	6.90
January 1, 2003	7.01
January 1, 2006	7.63
January 1, 2007	7.93
January 1, 2008	8.07
January 1, 2009	8.55
January 1, 2011	8.67
January 1, 2014	9.32
January 1, 2015	9.47



CROPS

In the past the Skagit County processing industry revolved around green peas. 2010 marked the first year since the early 1900s that no commercial pea processing took place in Skagit County. As a result, growers have been experimenting with new crops in hopes of finding the next niche.

Potatoes have become a very important crop with acreage expanding significantly over the past fifteen years. Other crops, such as cole crops, vegetable seed crops, cucumbers, flower bulbs, and small fruits contribute less in gross dollars but are very important. The net return to the grower on these crops is relatively high, and they provide diversification and many jobs.

APPLES

Apple acreage in Skagit County is on the decline. The 2015 Skagit crop showed average yields and average quality with a moderate pricing structure.

Our coastal climate allows us to grow varieties that are different from those grown in the large apple-producing regions of central Washington. Varieties grown here such as Jonagold, Gravenstein, Spartan, Akane and Honey Crisp are excellent apples to consume, but with no apple processing facilities in Skagit County, shipping the apples back and forth across the mountain passes makes commercial production ineffective.

In 1998 Washington State Department of Agriculture added Skagit to the list of counties quarantined against apple maggot. WSU Skagit County Extension initiated the formation of the Skagit County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board to develop programs to prevent the pest from infesting commercial orchards. To date, no apple maggots have been found in commercial orchards.

BLUEBERRIES

Harvested by hand and machine, about half the crop is sold for fresh market, and half is processed. Yields and quality in this area are exceptionally high compared to the Midwest. Our cooler summer temperatures allow the berries to ripen slowly, which results in more sugar. Prices remain strong for blueberries despite predictions of overproduction.

BLACKBERRIES

2015 provided mixed reviews for the blackberry crop. A cold snap in November decreased fruit production. As consumers diversify their berry palate, this will be one to watch for the future. As you know Skagit County can grow some amazing blackberries; however, more cold tolerance is needed in commercial blackberry varieties.





BULB CROPS

Approximately 1,100 acres of tulips, daffodils, and iris are grown in Skagit County. They are sold for both cut flowers and bulbs and shipped throughout the U.S. and Canada. About 20 million bulbs are harvested each summer in Skagit County. About 75 million cut flowers are grown in greenhouses and fields, accounting for over 50% of overall sales. About 450 acres of tulips are grown in the Valley, which represents 75% of U.S. commercial production. Skagit County is known worldwide for its Tulip Festival, which occurs the entire month of April. The Tulip Festival began in 1984 and now brings an estimated 300,000 visitors and \$65 million in revenue to the county.

The bulb industry averages about \$20 million in annual gross income, \$3 million of which is in bulb sales. Since 1968, flower prices have increased three times, while bulbs have only doubled, but prices have decreased steadily since 2000. There are now only three bulb-growing farms in the region.



CAULIFLOWER AND BROCCOLI

All Skagit County cauliflower and broccoli are grown for fresh market. Head quality is exceptionally high in this region. Approximately 60% to 80% of the broccoli and cauliflower grown in Skagit is consumed in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Skagit farmers grew about 1,000 acres of cauliflower and broccoli this year. Farmers in the Skagit Valley maintained acreages for these important rotational crops in 2015 largely for the nutrient and disease suppression that brassica crops provide.



CHICKENS AND EGGS

Washington is ranked 19th in the nation for egg production (Source: http://www.stuffaboutstates.com/agriculture/livestock/chicken_eggs.htm). Two companies produce the majority of the eggs in Skagit County: Day Creek Organic Farms and National Foods, with a third player, Wilcox Farms entering the scene in 2016. These two farms account for hundreds of millions of eggs being produced in Skagit County and Washington State.

Retail egg prices are among the most volatile retail food prices, as they can be affected by seasonal demand. The upswing in 2015 was primarily due to the HPAI outbreak, which decreased the table-egg-laying flocks in the Midwest and Pacific Northwest by 11 percent (33 million egg layers). In the first quarter of 2016, egg production is forecast to be down due to smaller flock sizes and lower egg-laying rates per bird. Overall, as the industry continues to recover from this outbreak, prices at the retail level are expected to decline in 2016. ERS forecasts egg prices to decrease 13.0 to 12.0 percent in 2016 (Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings.aspx>).



The sole Washington-owned chicken processor in the state, Draper Valley Farms, is located in Mount Vernon. The company employs approximately 500 people and has sales around 80 million dollars.



CUCUMBERS

The lone pickle cucumber processor in Washington State is Gielow Pickles located at the Port of Skagit County with the headquarters located in Lexington, MI. According to their website, “Making pickles is in our blood. When our family began making pickles in the early 1900’s, our goal was to make the highest quality pickle at a competitive price. Today, our goal remains the same. The use of automated packaging equipment, direct contact with growers across America, and the buying power of the market leaders enables Gielow Pickles to accomplish our goal.”



POTATOES

Potato acreage consists primarily of fresh market reds, whites, yellows, purple, fingerlings and some chipping potatoes. Skagit potatoes are in demand for their high quality. Late blight disease is a constant threat to the industry; however, due to a study of all the growers in Skagit and northern Snohomish counties, WSU Skagit County Extension was able to determine that Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Silver Scurf continues to be more of a problem for area growers. Researchers at WSU NWREC and WSU Skagit County Extension are now working on these issues. Because of the need for a three-year rotation, there is limited ground available for the 14,000 acres of potatoes currently grown in Skagit County. Overall production remained constant for 2015. The disadvantage in 2015 was that once the wet spring turned, things opened up for the growers; they scrambled to get enough water on the crop during the drought. There were over 1000 acres of potatoes that were not harvested in 2015 based on those heavy rains late in the harvest season.



Photo by Don McMoran

RASPBERRIES

The majority of raspberry acreage in Skagit County is harvested by machine; high labor costs designate that hand harvest be designated for fresh consumption. The primary variety is Meeker. The majority of the crop is frozen so it can be processed at a later date into juice, preserves, yogurt, bakery ingredients, and frozen products. Skagit County produces about 3% of the state’s crop. Washington produces about 75% of the total U.S. production of frozen red raspberries, and 95% of that is from Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

Overall prices for the 2015 raspberry crop continued to be good due to poor production world wide and gradually increasing demand. In Skagit County, yields and quality were poor in 2015 due to the summer drought.





SEED CROPS

A large variety of vegetable seed crops are grown in the Skagit Valley; the top 3 in both acreage and farmgate value are spinach, cabbage and beet seed. Skagit and Snohomish counties produce nearly 75% of the US supply of spinach and cabbage seed and nearly 95% of the U.S. table beet seed. Skagit County is known as a significant world contributor with approximately 8% of the world's spinach seed, 25% of the world's cabbage seed, and 25% of the world's beet seed. Other vegetable seeds produced in Skagit County include arugula, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, coriander, mustard, parsley, parsnip, rutabaga, swiss chard and turnip.

Vegetable seed production is highly technical and often involves long rotation intervals—sometimes stretching beyond a decade. Skagit County farmers have developed innovative tools and cultural practices along with a close relationship with Washington State University research scientists and Extension professionals to be proactive in managing specialty seed crops challenges.

Vegetable seeds from the Skagit Valley are marketed all over the world. The need for isolation distances to prevent contamination from cross-pollination keeps the vegetable seed acreage below 5,000 acres in Skagit County. Skagit-based seed companies contract some of their acreage with Snohomish, Island, Whatcom, and Clallam county growers. To protect these areas, seed companies joined together in the 1940s to designate where the crops would be grown. On the first Monday in March and again in June the seed companies meet at WSU NWREC for the annual pinning days that determine which crop will be planted and where. It is this spirit of cooperation that keeps the seed industry growing in Skagit County.

Beet and Spinach seed yields were down significantly in 2015 due to the drought.

Cabbage seed production was reduced by 1/4 due to extreme winter weather conditions in the 2014-2015 growing season.

There are eight vegetable seed companies in Skagit County: Sakata, D&D, Rijk Zwaan, Schafer, Skagit Seed Services, Syngenta, Universal and Vikima Seeds USA.

Some turf and forage grasses for seed are also grown in Skagit County, production varies widely depending upon market volatility.



Spinach Seed Field— Photo by Don McMoran



Beet Seed Field— Photo by Don McMoran



Cabbage Seed Field— Photo by Don McMoran



STRAWBERRIES

The main varieties are Albion, Shuksan, Totem, Puget Reliance, Hood, Puget Summer, Redcrest and Rainier. Most strawberries are sold to processors. Skagit County produces about 20% of the state's strawberries. Acreage is beginning to increase in Skagit County, based in part to a demand for local production. More growers are changing varieties to capture more of the fresh market by producing everbearing strawberries and using innovative technologies to increase the length of the season.

WINE GRAPES

The marine climate in the Skagit Valley is similar in many ways to the fine wine producing areas of France and Germany. Research conducted from 1976 to 1988 at WSU NWREC produced a number of white wine grape varieties, which have already proven successful in area vineyards. Current research involves projects in evaluating new wine grape varieties, and rootstock trials evaluating potential for earlier maturity in 'Pinot Noir' grapes.

Currently, there are 7 wineries producing 25,000 cases of wine on approximately one hundred acres valued at over \$1 million.

ORGANIC FARMING

- ♦ In 2015 there was one additional certified organic farmer added to the area and organic acreage increased to 6,135. Organic production in Skagit County is valued at \$16,080,706 making it the highest organic agricultural producing county in Western Washington.
- ♦ WSU Skagit County Extension has been teaching the Cultivating Success Beginning Farmer and Rancher course and the Agricultural Entrepreneur bilingual 12-week course in partnership with Skagit Valley College since 2006. To date 400 students have been educated on organic/sustainable agricultural production.

(Source: http://csanr.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/WA_Crop-Tables_2006-15_final.pdf)



Photo by Don McMoran



2015 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

After the banner year of 2014, 2015 was back to business-as-usual for Skagit County Dairy producers: financial struggle. Average milk income per dairy (revenue) was 35% less than in 2014 and is forecast to remain depressed throughout 2016. Producers received an average of 16¢ per pound of milk produced in 2015 and consumers paid about 35¢ per pound (based on \$3/ gallon milk) through commercial venues.

Milk production in Washington averaged 23,848 lbs. (2773 gals.) per cow in 2015, ranking the state sixth

in that parameter and above the U.S. average of 22,393 lbs. Although production per cow dropped 1% from 2014, cow numbers were up (277,000 in 2015 vs. 273,000 in 2014) so overall production was up 0.4%. Average production per cow may be down due to herds adding Jersey cows, which have higher milk butterfat and protein (an important factor where milk is valued on components vs. fluid milk) but less overall production than Holsteins. They also are better suited than Holsteins to pasture-based production, which is expanding in the region.

The PNW (WA, OR, CA, AK, and HI) produces >50M pounds of milk annually, or 24% of total U.S. production and the most of any of the 10 production regions. Dairy products (nonfat dry milk and other dairy products) have been in the top 25 U.S. commodity exports in most years since 2005. In 2015, exported nonfat dried milk was valued at \$1.46B and Other Dairy Products at \$1.72B. Exports to China in particular have escalated in recent years.

Producers are implementing technology advances for labor savings, increased efficiency, and better animal monitoring. For example, they are using new fly control options, modifying stalls, and providing body scratchers for cows, all in an effort to improve cow comfort, welfare, and quality of life.

Year	Number of Dairies		Total Pounds Milk Produced	Uniform Average Milk Price/cwt	Annual Total Milk Value	
	Start of Year	End of Year			Total County	Ave Value/Farm
2015	29	30	287,906,784	15.59	\$44,884,668	\$1,521,514
2014	29	29	299,584,645	22.66	\$67,885,881	\$2,340,892
2013	30	29	280,182,987	18.84	\$52,786,475	\$1,759,549
2012	31	30	270,573,960	17.20	\$46,538,721	\$1,551,291
2011	30	31	336,923,400	18.37	\$61,892,829	\$1,996,543
2010	29	30	264,944,400	18.37	\$40,854,426	\$1,408,773
2009	27	28	237,502,107	11.76	\$27,930,248	\$1,034,454
2008	29	27	272,623,494	16.87	\$45,991,583	\$1,585,917
2007	37	29	279,077,546	18.67	\$52,103,778	\$1,796,682
2006	42	37	318,664,000	12.07	\$38,462,745	\$1,039,534
2005	46	44	343,039,400	14.20	\$48,711,595	\$1,107,082





2015 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

Year	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	*Milk Income/Dairy
2015	287,906,784	15.59	\$44,884,668	29.5	\$1,521,514
2014	299,584,645	22.66	\$67,885,881	29	\$2,340,892
2013	280,182,987	18.84	\$52,786,475	30	\$1,759,549
2012	270,573,960	17.20	\$46,538,721	30	\$1,551,291
2011	336,923,400	19.20	\$64,689,293	31	\$2,086,751
2010	264,944,400	15.42	\$40,854,426	29	\$1,408,773
2009	237,502,107	11.76	\$27,930,248	27	\$1,034,454
2008	272,623,494	16.87	\$45,991,583	29	*averages \$1,585,917
2007	279,077,546	18.67	\$52,103,778	29	\$1,796,682
2006	318,664,000	12.08	\$38,494,611	37	\$1,040,395

2015 Data

Month	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	Milk Income/Dairy
January	25,625,889	\$15.84	\$405,914,082	29	\$13,997,037
February	23,030,560	\$15.42	\$355,131,235	29	\$12,245,905
March	24,541,542	\$15.00	\$368,123,130	29	\$12,693,901
April	23,979,332	\$14.86	\$356,332,874	29	\$12,287,340
May	24,868,876	\$15.56	\$386,959,711	29	\$13,343,438
June	24,517,100	\$15.38	\$377,072,998	29	\$13,002,517
July	25,127,048	\$14.85	\$373,136,663	30	\$12,437,889
August	24,684,892	\$16.36	\$403,844,833	30	\$13,461,494
September	22,797,088	\$16.28	\$371,136,593	30	\$12,371,220
October	22,765,694	\$16.68	\$379,731,776	30	\$12,657,726
November	22,440,060	\$15.68	\$351,860,141	30	\$11,728,671
December	23,528,703	\$15.59	\$366,812,480	30	\$12,227,083
TOTALS	287,906,784	\$15.63	\$4,496,056,514	ave. 29.5	\$152,454,222

U.S. dairy product consumption statistics reveal interesting trends. The USDA's Economic Research Service reports the following changes between 1975 and 2013:

- Milk and cream: 28% decrease in consumption
- **Yogurt: 645% increase in consumption**
- **Cheese: 89% increase in consumption**
- Evaporated and condensed milk: 16% decrease in consumption
- Frozen products: 23% decrease in consumption



Photo by Don McMoran

Sources:

2015 Washington Annual Agriculture Bulletin, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northwest Regional Field Office.

2015 Pacific Northwest Federal Milk Marketing Order, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Dairy Programs.



VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (ACRES)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Total Clallam	Total Cowlitz	Total Island	Total Jeffer	Total Lewis	Total Snohomish	Total Whatcom	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
*2015	609	250	1227	25	2111	NA	NA	55.6	10	250	503	42.6	2972.2
*2014	734	201.6	1622	20	2577.6	NA	NA	50	10	200	251.5	30	2919.1
*2013	1005	322	2139	25	3491	NA	NA	58.5	1	NA	479	50	4079.5
*2012	733	388	1847	50	3018	NA	NA	43.5	1	NA	531	56.7	3600.2
*2011	668	338.7	1454	68	2460.7	NA	NA	76.3	1	NA	235	NA	2773.0
*2010	512	494.7	1619	44	2669.7	NA	NA	46.05	1	NA	384	NA	3100.75
*2009	305	433.25	1631.5	75	2444.75	NA	NA	69.5	NA	NA	315	NA	2829.25
*2008	457	381	1456	20	2314	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	367	NA	2741
*2007	530	400	1493	80	2503	NA	NA	73	NA	NA	272	26	2874
*2006	519	352	1680	69	2620	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	458	NA	3138
2003	316	93	790	20	1,219	45	-	34	10	-	272	93	1,663
2002	313	95	770	26	1,204	71	-	105		110	234	102	1,826
2001	710	349	1,112	190	2,361	78	-	126		194	417	79	3,255
2000	763	410	2,412	215	3,800	100	-	256		146	661	112	5,075
1999	771	526	2,630	217	4,145	94	-	128		120	778	52	5,317
1998	537	859	1,824	355	3,575	68	-	125		71	527	48	4,414

Beginning in 2006 production numbers are based on "Pinned" acres by seed company representation at WSU NWREC on March 1st and June 1st.



VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (DOLLARS)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Clallam	Cowlitz	Island	Jefferson	Lewis	Snohomish	Whatcom	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
2015	1,827,000	1,250,000	3,681,000	75,000	6,833,000	NA	NA	278,000	100,000	500,000	1,509,000	213,000	9,433,000
2014	2,202,000	2,016,000	4,866,000	60,000	9,144,000	NA	NA	150,000	400,000	800,000	1,004,000	150,000	11,648,000
2013	1,512,500	1,932,000	5,347,500	62,500	8,854,500	NA	NA	292,500	2500	NA	2,395,000	250,000	11,794,500
2012	1,899,00	1,940,00	5,541,000	75,000	9,455,00	NA	NA	217,500	1500	NA	1,703,00	388,500	11,765,500
2011	2,004,000	1,693,500	4,847,000	102,000	8,646,500	NA	NA	381,500	1500	NA	705,000	NA	9,734,500
2010	1,536,000	2,473,500	4,857,000	132,000	8,998,500	NA	NA	230,250	NA	NA	1,152,000	NA	10,380,750
2009	915,000	2,166,250	4,894,500	225,000	8,200,750	NA	NA	347,500	NA	NA	1,017,000	NA	9,565,250
2008	1,143,300	1,905,500	4,366,599	100,000	7,515,399	NA	NA	300,000	NA	NA	1,100,100	NA	8,915,499
2007	953,640	1,198,500	2,238,750	120,000	4,510,890	NA	NA	219,000	NA	NA	527,700	78,000	5,335,590
2006	519,000	352,800	1,680,000	39,000	2,620,800	-	-	180,450	-	-	458,000	120,300	3,379,550
2003	560,507	346,429	828,369	62,550	1,797,855	269,907	-	183,771	8,025	-	437,676	133,782	2,831,016
2002	630,897	492,849	1,152,622	17,906	2,294,274	250,682	-	290,534	-	129,969	588,275	204,560	3,758,294
2001	1,481,266	1,501,946	2,099,945	178,890	5,262,047	374,673	-	545,636	-	121,853	973,485	52,427	7,330,121
2000	1,192,711	2,036,666	3,345,547	606,589	7,181,513	319,102	-	847,693	-	193,710	1,773,375	265,203	10,580,596
1999	1,100,635	1,577,963	4,524,822	363,083	7,566,053	348,384	-	235,031	-	178,451	2,416,114	89,789	10,834,272
1998	881,875	1,441,628	1,665,009	560,290	4,548,802	278,554	-	205,377	-	78,193	639,661	55,268	5,805,855
1997	1,769,864	3,533,368	2,464,127	512,274	8,279,633	268,463	45,525	205,572	-	73,120	490,712	-	9,363,025



SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY *

CROP	2015	2010	2000	1990	1978
Apples ⁽¹⁾	75	100	373	103	n/a
Blackberries	400	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	3500	1,200	625	xxx	xxx
Brussels Sprouts	500	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carrots (processing)	0	200	800	468	890
Cucumbers (processing)	500	1000	2,396	1,900	1,094
Dry Beans	500	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Field Crops ⁽²⁾	35,000	35,000	22,650	33,050	25,000
Grass Seed	800	650	1,081	xxx	xxx
Misc. Crops ⁽³⁾	4,000	4,000	3623	665	975
Peas (processing)	0	0	7233	14,880	15,898
Potatoes	14,000	10,500	9,500	7,250	1,520
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	420	524
Raspberries	500	1,300	1441	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	400	475	390	615	550
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	0	616	1,098
Vegetable Seed ⁽⁴⁾	2111	2669.7	3800	3,375	4,891

1) Includes no nonbearing trees.

2) Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn & grass silage, grass, oats, small grain, & wheat.

3) Refer to Crops Grown in Skagit County on page 22.

4) Vegetable Seed includes beet, cabbage, swiss chard and spinach.

* Figures shown are unofficial estimates based on input from processing companies, growers, agricultural organizations and agencies, field representatives, news articles, and Extension Agent experience. Crops grown by fewer than three producers are combined to protect confidentiality. Official agricultural figures are collected every five years by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The last Census of Agriculture was collected for the year 2012 and can be viewed at the following web site: <https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/>

TYPICAL YIELDS (per/acre)

Apples	40 bins
Blueberries	6-10 tons
Flower bulbs	50,000 bulbs
Cucumbers	7 ton-10 tons
Green peas	2 tons
Potatoes	20-25 tons
Raspberries	3.5-4.5 tons
Ryegrass seed	1500 lbs



STATISTICAL SUMMARIES: *

Dollar Value to Producer



Skagit County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION



Photo by Don McMoran

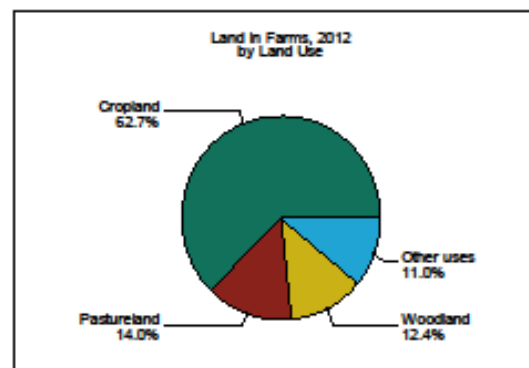
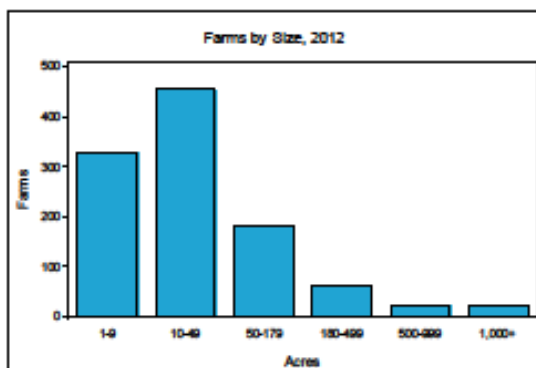
1. Includes no acres nonbearing trees.
2. State public disclosure restrictions prevent the publishing of "farm-gate" values. The figure for Eggs & Fryers reflects the "overall value" of the industry to the county
3. Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn & grass silage, grass, oats, small grain, & wheat.
4. Refers to Crops Grown in Skagit County on page 23.
5. Vegetable Seed includes, beet, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, rutabaga, spinach.

*Figures shown are unofficial estimates based on input from processing companies, growers, agricultural organizations and agencies, field representatives, news articles, and Extension Agent experience. Crops grown by fewer than three producers are combined to protect confidentiality. Official agricultural figures are collected every five years by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The last Census of Agriculture was collected for the year 2002 and can be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>. For state information, contact Washington Agricultural Statistics (360/902-1940).

Crop	2015	2010	2000	1990	1978
Apples ⁽¹⁾	100,000	200,000	865,200	592,250	xxx
Blackberries	1,500,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	17,500,000	6,000,000	3,011,646	xxx	xxx
Brussels Sprouts	2,500,000	50,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carrots (processing)	0	600,000	985,600	493,794	1,181,157
Cucumbers (processing)	500,000	1,500,000	5,220,773	4,944,034	1,920,930
Dairy (milk sold)	44,884,668	40,854,426	43,895,519	53,122,168	23,885,268
Dry Beans	750,000	1,500	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eggs and Fryers ⁽²⁾	22,500,000	25,000,000	12,309,000	14,016,877	5,177,500
Field Crops ⁽³⁾	27,000,000	30,000,000	9,423,600	12,844,718	2,575,000
Grass Seed	780,000	487,500	545,000	xxx	xxx
Livestock	10,000,000	7,500,000	8,123,000	4,400,000	5,493,283
Misc.Crops ⁽⁴⁾	18,000,000	20,000,000	16,944,598	2,046,600	176,000
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	50,000,000	50,000,000	56,207,469	24,000,000	4,900,000
Peas (processing)	0	0	3,044,092	5,640,903	7,117,743
Potatoes	55,000,000	52,500,000	52,725,000	33,746,600	2,032,800
Raspberries/ Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	1,179,450	1,789,058
Raspberries	2,500,000	8,400,000	4,143,347	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,725,643	2,496,280	1,233,314
Sweet Corn (processing)	0	0	0	187,828	1,187,462
Vegetable Seed ⁽⁵⁾	6,833,000	10,380,750	7,566,503	3,144,352	1,828,968
TOTALS	262,347,668	255,974,176	227,351,000	165,141,854	63,181,133



	2012	2007	% change
Number of Farms	1,074	1,215	- 12
Land in Farms	106,538 acres	108,541 acres	- 2
Average Size of Farm	99 acres	89 acres	+ 11
Market Value of Products Sold	\$272,275,000	\$258,248,000	+ 6
Crop Sales \$201,007,000 (74 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$71,268,000 (26 percent)			
Average Per Farm	\$253,515	\$210,904	+ 20
Government Payments	\$1,442,000	\$630,000	+ 129
Average Per Farm Receiving Payments	\$12,121	\$5,835	+ 108

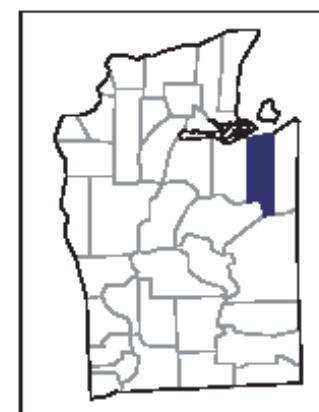


US Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

www.agcensus.usda.gov

Skagit County
Washington

COUNTY PROFILE
2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE





COMMERCIAL CROPS GROWN IN SKAGIT COUNTY

Fruit

Aronia*
Blackberry
Blueberry
Boysenberry*
Currant*
Lingonberry*
Loganberry*
Marionberry*
Quince*
Raspberry
Strawberry
Tayberry*
Watermelon*
Wine Grape

Tree Fruit

Apple
Asian pear*
Cherry*
Filbert
Peach*
Pear*
Plum*

Vegetables

Artichoke
Asparagus and asparagus root*
Basil*
Bean*
Beet*
Bok Choy*

Broccoli
Brussels sprout
Burdock*
Cabbage
Cantaloupe*
Carrot
Cauliflower
Chives*
Cucumber
Garlic*
Green pea*
Hothouse tomato*
Kale*
Kohlrabi*
Leek
Lettuce
Mizuna*
Onion*
Parsley*
Parsnip*
Pepper*
Potatoes
Pumpkin
Radish*
Rhubarb*
Salad Mix*
Spinach*
Summer squash
Sweet corn
Swiss chard*
Tomatillo*
Tomatoes*

Turnip*
Winter squash*

Seed Crops - Vegetable

Arugula
Broccoli-raab
Brussels sprout
Cabbage
Cauliflower
Chinese cabbage
Chinese kale
Chinese mustard
Coriander
India mustard
Kale
Kohlrabi
Parsley
Parsnip
Radish
Rutabaga
Spinach
Swiss chard
Table Beet
Turnip

Seed/Pulse Crops - Other

Fava beans
Pinto Beans
Red beans
Ryegrass
Tall fescue

Small Grains

Barley
Buckwheat
Cereal rye
Oats
Triticale
Wheat

Forage Crops

Alfalfa
Field corn
Silage grass

Flowers and Bulbs

Daffodil
Dahlia
Iris
Lily
Tulip

Miscellaneous Crops

Bamboo
Christmas trees
Dill*
Fennel*
Gourds*
Hybrid poplar
Marijuana
Sod
Tea*

*Less than ten acres



ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES SERVING SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Ag Alternative
Agrilink Foods
Bank of the Pacific
Bio Huma Netics, Inc.
Brim Tractor
Cascadian Farms
Cucumber Industry Advisory Committee
D & D Farms
Farm Service Administration
Farmers Equipment Company
Gielow Pickles
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Northwest Ag Business Center
Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation
Northwest Bulb Growers
Northwest Farm Credit Services
Northwest Food Processors Association
Peoples Bank
Puget Sound Seed Growers Association
Rabo Bank
Rijk Zwaan Seed
Sakata Seed Company
Sakuma Bros.
Schafer Agriculture Services
Skagit Bank
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit County Cattlemen's Association
Skagit County Dairy Federation
Skagit County Farm Bureau
Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program
Skagit County Horticultural Pest Board
Skagit Dairy Women

Skagit Farmers Supply
Skagit Seed Services
Skagit Valley Red Potato Growers Assn.
Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
Small Fruit Advisory Committee
Sorensen Seed Co.
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA Farm Service Agency
Tree Fruit Industry Advisory Committee
Twin City Foods
Valley Pride Sales
WA Blueberry Commission
WA Lettuce & Vegetable Co.
WA Red Raspberry Commission
WA Seed Potato Commission
WA State Dairy Federation
WA State Potato Commission
WA Strawberry Commission
Washington Tractor
Western WA Agricultural Assn.
Western WA Fruit Research Foundation
Western WA Small Seed Advisory Committee
Wilbur Ellis Company
WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington
Research & Extension Center
WSU Clallam County Extension
WSU Jefferson County Extension
WSU Skagit County Extension
WSU Whatcom County Extension





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Farm Service Agency
Gielow Pickles Inc.
Hedlin Farms
Hughes Farms
Knutzen Farms
McMoran Farms
Merritt's Apples
Mike and Jean's Berry Farm
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
Norm Nelson, Inc.
Northwest Agriculture Business Center
North Fork Nursery
Ralph's Greenhouse
Sakuma Bros. Farm
Sakata Seed Company
Schafer Ag Services, LLC
Seminis Vegetable Seed Co.
Skagit Farmers Supply
Skagit Seed Services
Skagit Select
Skagit Valley Herald
Sterling Hills Potato Farm
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.

Universal Seed, Inc.
US Department of Commerce
US Department of Labor
Valley Pride Sales
Vikima Seed, USA
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
Washington Bulb Co., Inc.
Washington Fryer Commission
Washington Red Raspberry Commission
Washington State Employment Security Department
Washington Strawberry Commission
Western Washington Agriculture Association
Wilbur Ellis Company
WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research
and Extension Center



Photo by Don McMoran