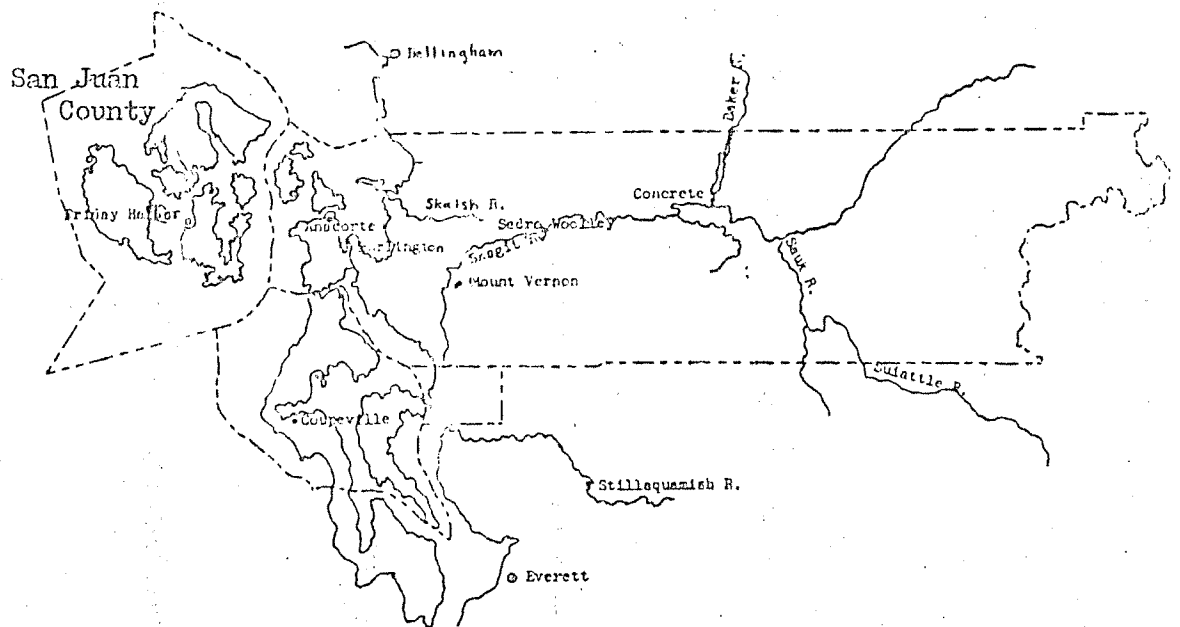


A

**The History of San Juan County Agriculture  
With An Appendix of Excerpts from The  
Annual Narrative Reports Filed By The County Agents.**

**Elizabeth E. Ellis  
Ag. Econ 301-Spring 1978  
Dr. Harrington**



1. Location of the Skagit trade area of Washington.

9

In keeping with national trends, land values in San Juan County have risen dramatically. Between 1964 and 1974 the cost of land per acre increased 439% from \$263 in 1964.<sup>1</sup> It is now not uncommon to see land selling for \$3,000 to \$5,000 and upwards per acre. The rising price of land has been both the cause and effect of changing land use practices in the county. For example, <sup>with increasing</sup> ~~as~~ land values ~~increase~~, farmers are <sup>able</sup> ~~faced with the opportunity~~ (to sell out for big financial rewards prior to retirement.) Farmers who decide to sell have no trouble finding prospective buyers <sup>many who are</sup> ~~especially~~ from the Seattle and California areas. These people seek a place away from rapidly growing urban areas. Increasingly, farm- land which is sold is used for recreation instead of agriculture.

Farmers in the county have the added inconvenience and expense not shared by mainland farmers of ferry travel to and from the mainland. They must plan trips off the island to coincide with <sup>the</sup> ferry schedules. <sup>This usually necessitates</sup> ~~requiring in advance~~ waiting for boats at both ends. (This inconvenience especially affects livestock and grain farmers who must take goods to the mainland buyers. Although <sup>the</sup> ferries are an inconvenience, they are an integral part of island living and an understood added expense to the residents.

Currently, the county is having to face the problems of growth and land use. The county has been working on a Comp-

rehensive Plan which would ensure orderly growth and preserve the rural character of the county. The Plan is expected to be passed within the next few months.

In order to plan for future county agriculture, it helps to understand what has gone on in the past. What I have ~~to~~ <sup>been</sup> written here is an account of the agricultural history of San Juan County.

### Natural History

Located in Washington Sound, San Juan County is composed of approximately 175 islands. ~~The four largest islands,~~ San Juan, Orcas, Lopez, and Shaw, are served on a scheduled basis by the Washington State Ferries.

The topography of the islands was formed <sup>here</sup> by the Vashon Glaciation. This is evidenced by the many rounded knolls and hills with clay and soil deposits in the low lying areas. The highest point in the county is Mt. Constitution on Orcas Island which has an elevation of 2,409 feet. On a clear day there is a splendid view of the Canadian San Juans to the north, the Cascades to the east, and the Olympics to the south.

The county is known for its cool, dry summers and generally mild winters. This climate is <sup>due to the location of</sup> ~~because~~ the islands which are situated in the rainshadow of the Olympic mountains and are protected from the west by Vancouver Island. In 1966 the average temperature was a brisk 49.3°F. The lowest temp-

erature that year was -8°F on Orcas, while the highest temperature recorded was 98°F in Friday Harbor. Precipitation for 1966 averaged 29" and the growing season lasted 226 days.

[The first San Juan County fair was held at Friday Harbor in 1906. ] A reporter covering the event, upon observing an entry of cabbages weighing an average of 34 pounds, commented, "Great massive perfect specimens, they told wondrous tales of San Juan County soil."<sup>2</sup>

Ownership of the territory that is now San Juan County was disputed by the British and the Americans until 1872. The dispute culminated in the infamous 1850's Pig War in which an American shot a stray British pig belonging to the Hudson Bay Company. The episode was resolved by Emperor William I of Germany who gave the islands to the Americans.

~~Washington State was established as a territory in 1889.~~  
→Originally, <sup>the</sup> San Juan Islands were a part of Whatcom County. However, on October 31, 1873, an Act of the Washington Territorial legislature established the islands as a separate county.

The early history of the county, from 1853 - 1880, is aptly referred to by H.J. Lechner as "the Pioneer State."<sup>3</sup> During this period homesteads were located near the waterfront. There were few roads and these were of a primitive nature. Primarily, islanders used footpaths to get around to different parts of the island. Transportation between

† San Juan County to be up dated

islands was generally by small boat or steamship. What little agriculture there was existed largely on a subsistence scale, with the exception of a single farm operated by the Hudson Bay Company. When the islands were given to the Americans, the Hudson Bay Company sold its 1,300 sheep and pigs to the manager who then formed the Bellevue farm.

During the pioneer state, fruit trees were brought into the county. The fruit trees proved to be well suited to the area and by the late 1800's farmers were exporting fruits to the mainland. On Shaw Island, George Griswold had a large prune orchard and operated an island fruit dryer. His dried fruit was then collected by a steamer for shipment to the mainland.

In 1880 the county experienced an economic boost. The Roche Harbor Lime Company was established on San Juan Island. [Not only did this industry directly employ many people but because of the large amount of cut wood required to fuel the furnaces many people <sup>sold</sup> ~~could sell~~ wood to the quarry to help make ends meet.] The presence of the quarry also encouraged other businesses, new residents, and tourists. In the ten years from 1880 to 1890 the county population had more than doubled, increasing from 948 to 2072.<sup>4</sup> In response to the growing local demand for produce, farms changed from a subsistence level of one cow and a few chickens on small acreages to more livestock and gardens on larger acreages.

The increase in population and industrial expansion necessitated the building of roads throughout the county.

Settlements were no longer limited to the waterfront. This development<sup>between 1880 and 1897</sup> began H.J. Lechner's second phase of county growth<sup>which</sup> which he termed "The Village State". <sup>This period was</sup> ~~from 1880 to 1897~~, is essentially characterized by improved transportation. In addition to roads being built, boat connections became available three times a week between the islands and Seattle, Bellingham, and Port Townsend.

The county soon progressed from a period of pioneer isolation. Whereas the focus had been on the island communities or villages it changed to the island itself. This third, and last stage, Lechner called the "Island State". This period covered from 1897 to 1939. It was during this stage that the county developed a prosperous agricultural industry and established ~~had~~ market connections with the mainland.

The first county fair<sup>held</sup> in 1906, brought the county out of agricultural anonymity to achieve recognition as an important agricultural community. The fair accomplished the following functions: First, the diverse farm interests were brought together to display local produce and livestock. Second, in bringing together a representative collection of farm products, the abundance and quality of the entries demonstrated the productivity and potentials of the land. Finally, pears and apples from the county fair went on to compete in the

Northwest Fruit Exposition in Seattle to win first prizes.

This exposure gave county producers tremendous publicity.

By 1910 San Juan County had three times more sheep than any other county in Western Washington. In addition to the numbers of sheep, dairy cattle and poultry were quite numerous. ~~There were quite numerous.~~ There were bountiful crops of tree and small fruits as well as agronomic crops of barley and wheat. Although county farmers had a favorable climate, good soils, and growing local and mainland markets, they did not make use of new production methods. Most farmers were ~~just~~ unaware of new growing and feeding techniques.

They religiously planted nurse crops and used inadequate amounts and kinds of fertilizers. The quality of livestock had much to be desired due to poor culling and feeding practices. Although far from a booming agriculture, the roots of an agricultural revolution had been set.

Concurrent with the agricultural development was the growth of a recreation industry. Already by 1910 the county was popular among retired people and vacationers. The beauty of the islands evoked a sense of romanticism. As one author wrote in 1910, "Wealthy men of the cities have already selected many of the quiet picturesque coves for their summer homes and have improved them by adding the comforts and conveniences desired during retired life."<sup>5</sup>



7

By 1920 county agriculture had established a geographic pattern. Generally, there were dairy cows on all of the islands. Herds ranged in size from only a few cows on Orcas and Shaw to larger herds on San Juan and Lopez. There were also fruit trees on all the islands, but most of these were found on Orcas and Shaw where the hilly terrain was more suited to small intensive enterprises. <sup>Also</sup> Another ~~crop~~ that was well suited to small acreages were the small fruits, raspberries, strawberries, and loganberries, which grew to such a large size ~~that~~ they attracted people from as far away as California.<sup>6</sup> Both San Juan Island and Lopez Island have large flat tillable areas. These lands were planted in peas and grains while some land was used for pasture.

In 1921 the first Extension Agent, Mr. William Arthur Ness, came to the county. Having an extension agent ~~in the county~~ did much to acquaint county farmers with new methods. This was not an easy task as one of Mr. Ness's major problems was in the dissemination of knowledge. Transportation was not always regular and reaching the more isolated smaller islands was even more difficult. He was helped by branches <sup>of the</sup> of a farm bureau which had represented most <sup>lives on</sup> islands. Once the agent had contacted farmers he then had ~~no difficulty~~ <sup>to</sup> in convincing them to try new methods. In describing this problem, a later agent, Mr. H. Lechner wrote in 1924, "Our county is very small, but full of farmers who don't believe

in their jobs, who are driven by their work,<sup>r/h</sup> know little of the first elements of relative values in placing judgement in the solution of their problems, who don't know how to enjoy themselves and who have never experienced the real "lift" of neighbor-like teamwork. . . In a small county like this, working through organizations must come second to individual contact."<sup>7</sup>

By the twenties, the effect the county agents had on upgrading the quality and quantity of produce was substantial. The county agents introduced several purebred bulls and rams to improve livestock. Demonstrations were often given on the importance of culling and proper feeding. Orchards which had been neglected were pruned back into productivity. Pesticide and fertilizer use became more widespread.

Tractors first appeared in the county in 1924. The impact was not thoroughly felt until 1938 when the numbers of horses ~~was~~ <sup>had</sup> greatly diminished.

The stock market crash of 1929<sup>and</sup> the ensuing depression of the '30s forced some 600 people out of the county in search of jobs. The county was not totally crippled by the depression as islanders could get by on garden vegetables. What people did not have, including goods and services, ~~and~~ could be acquired through trade.

Because of the lack of regular and affordable transportation to the mainland, most dairymen separated their milk,

discarding the skim milk and sending the butterfat to a mainland creamery. At this time it was easier to ship to the creamery in Friday Harbor than to the mainland. <sup>The creamery</sup> It sold milk, butter, and ice cream to locals on San Juan Island. The demand for milk and dairy products increased sharply during the summer tourist months. To capitalize on this, dairymen on Orcas Island built a pasturizing plant in 1939 which supplied local resorts with milk. This increased the dairymen's income by 15,090 dollars.

Most dairymen were very responsive to price changes to the detriment of their herd. At high meat prices, farmers sold their stock without keeping enough replacement animals. Then when dairy prices were back up they were short of good milkers.

To compound problems, the islands previously free of pea moth, succumbed to an infestation which completely destroyed the pea industry by 1941. The county had been the first in the state to achieve importance in the pea canning industry and for years had sustained a canning business.

~~In 1952 the state took over the farms, increasing rents and reducing taxes. Not only was this change beneficial to farmers, but also encouraged more visitors to the county.~~

Until the early fifties the county tree fruit industry had been able to successfully compete with fruit from Yakima. San Juan County had the advantage of proximity to west coast <sup>the</sup>

markets. It became cheaper for the west coast buyers to purchase fruit from central Washington as the lower production costs amply made up for the transportation costs. When the county fruit could no longer be marketed locally as fresh fruit some growers tried selling their crops to wineries. Finally out of desperation fruit was used as livestock feed.

In 1943 the agent wrote, "Some years ago the quality of the dairy cattle in the county was so high that buyers used to come to the county regularly for cattle to be shipped to California and elsewhere. Now the buyers that do come are picking up poor grade butcher stock."<sup>7</sup>

The decline in quality was due to poor prices. The decline in numbers, which continued through the sixties, was largely related to the involvement of the United States in World War Two. Nationally the country experienced a labor shortage. In the county dairymen had to invest in milking machines. Yet this conversion to more mechanization and less labor never had a chance to pay off. ~~By the time the price of dairy products stabilized after the war the county was no longer able to support a local creamery.~~ During the war there had been little demand for dairy products. After the war came a recession and so by the time dairy prices stabilized the county was no longer able to support a local creamery.

Beef cattle began to appear in the county as an alternative to dairy breeds. At first farmers favored a beef-milk cross. These breeds were predominant from 1943 until 1947 when Mr. Coffey of Orcas first introduced purebred Herefords. From then on more farmers changed to purebred stock. Cattlemen seemed to prefer Hereford and Angus breeds, yet such exotic varieties like the Scotch Highlander and Charolais were also introduced and some farmers still raise these animals.

In 1952 the state took over the county ferry run. The fares were reduced and more ferries added. The improved service ~~between the islands and the mainland~~ made it possible for county residents to hold jobs in nearby cities on the mainland. It is evident <sup>from</sup> looking at the graph of the number of farms that from 1950 the decline in the number of county farms was well established. Also the population correspondingly declined until 1960 when there <sup>was</sup> a great rush to the suburbs and rural areas.

The decline in the number of farms can be explained in part by the favorable economic conditions of the sixties. Farmers who wanted to change their occupation could afford to do so. Those who stayed with farming increased the size of their farms and tended to specialize. Farmers with livestock also produced much of their own feed which helped reduce those production costs associated with transportation.

In the early sixties the non agricultural population increased exponentially. <sup>area-63</sup> Accompanied with the higher <sup>county</sup> population density and increased transportation costs farmers were, and still are, waging an up-hill struggle to keep their farms from going under. Especially during the summer tourist season the losses incurred due to fires and stray dogs can be substantial. It is ironic how these people who are attracted to the county <sup>because of</sup> its rural character will take no responsibility for its preservation.

In terms of future development, the county has shown it can sustain a productive agricultural community. The overall direction of county agriculture has changed in response to the economic conditions during World War Two and then when the ferry service was improved. To meet the present high costs of production, especially the escalating costs of fuel, county agriculture will have to continue to maintain as much flexibility <sup>long range</sup> as possible. For the future, farms will have to become smaller, less dependent on fuel, and utilize more intensive crops. The citizens of the county can no longer take the assistance of an agricultural community for granted. They must serve as active trustees to promote that which they see as being <sup>beneficial</sup> to their own presence in the county. A vital action the county must take toward these ends is the adoption of a county comprehensive plan.

Appendix

Excerpts from The Annual Narratives  
Reports filed by the Extension Agents for  
San Juan County from 1925-1968.

- '37 Started cloverseed production on Lopez.
- '42 Floyd F. Svinth. Alternative crops being tried - seed vegetables, 50 - 60 acres table beets, 150 acres spinach, 100 acres cabbage
- '43 Seed vegetables seem to be working well
- '43 100 acres of seed cabbage planted on Orcas but because of a harsh winter only 35 acres were harvested, 5 acres of spinach, 15 acres of beets, 16 acres of kale
- '45 100 acres of cabbage seed was harvested
- '45 Corn introduced
- '46 Wylie, corn didn't work out
- '46 N-fertilizers are scarce
- '46 Still planting cabbage seed
- '47 Wm. W. Baker; seed cabbage down to three small fields with none planted for '48
- '47 Wylie, a new enterprise of bulb growing has blossomed on Orcas
- '54 Some Christmas tree farming
- '36 Horticultural crops are not a major concern with the exception of green peas for canning on San Juan Island
- '42 War emergency government encouraging gardens and home preservation
- '55 Fresh vegetables only for local market due to freight rates
- '35 Potatoes still for local demand and consumption
- '41 White Rose Seed potatoes suffered from ring rot
- '43 There are 150 acres of potatoes in the county
- '36 Orcas presents an interesting pattern of geographic crops. To the northeast are strawberries and gardens, while at the opposite end in the Southwest are found all the orchards which were at one time during the '20's the pride and joy of the island.

- '36 Pear Scab
- '38 More acreage is being planted in strawberries
- '43 Tree fruits are of little importance and strawberries are still a good economic crop though there has been a decline in acreage due to labor shortages and costs
- '44 Using orchard windfalls to sell to wineries as a source of additional income
- '45 More than 40 acres of strawberries were also harvested
- '54 Baker, only strawberries are marketing and acreage is way down to less than five acres.
- '55 Baker, the county fruit growing industry was strong until Yakima and Wenatchee became competitive
- '57 Baker, some strawberries on Orcas
- '61 The local Friday Harbor freezing plant is interested in adding other crops to their frozen peas, possibly strawberries . . . don't pan out, no interest
- '61 Tent catapillars are not too bad this year
- '35 Meenach, grains in San Juan county are dried peas, wheat, oats, barley, and flax which is used for dairy feed because there is not enough to warrant selling in bulk
- '36 Primary cereals are wheat (red Russian variety), barley, and peas.
- '36 A new winter wheat (Albit) was introduced because it stools very heavily in other sections. Its quality is superior (not so starchy) with yields of  $3/4$  ton per acre. Does best on Bellingham silt loam
- '36 Horsford barley is being tried for feed for the turkeys. Other varieties have beards which cause the turkey some discomfort. This variety is beardless and test yields show promise with one ton per acre with rabbits.
- '36 One of the best soils used for grain is peat. A supplement of several tons of super phosphate is being used to fertilize the marshes which increases yield and quality.



- '43 W J Wylie, there were about 350 acres of wheat planted. Production per acre is less than one ton per acre
- '43 There were about 1600 acres of oats and barley with yields of less than 1 to 1½ ton per acre.
- '44 Grains increased from 1600 acres to 2590 because of favorable prices
- '46 A wet fall, didn't help the wheat any
- '37 Meenach, Canadian thistle is a big nuisance. Suggested treatment is to clean and cultivate with a duck foot cultivator for four to five days during the growing season or spray with Alticide
- '62 John G. Westergreen, Shaw Island launches an all out attack on the Canadian thistle
- '55 The county was the first in the state to achieve importance in the pea canning industry until Pea Moth closed it down in 1937
- '31 First Pea Weevil on Lopez. Dry year prevented maturation of crop
- '33 Chas. T. Meenach
- '35 Due to the increased contact with the mainland the insect pests have become an increasing problem. The pea moth has again struck this year on Lopez. The agent thought the moth was localized to one farm and had that area treated. This was thought to erradicate the moth the folowing year . . .
- '35 San Jaun Island alone produces annually about 500 acres of green peas for canning. Two varities have been used: Surprise and Perfection, with a third variety to be tried this year, Wisconsin Early Sweet. This new variety is supposed to be wilt resistant
- '36 Meenach, although the Pea Moth was thought to have been limited to one farm and steps were taken in late summer of '35 to erradicate them, infestation was found by harvest time on another Lopez island. Also on Orcas there was a light infection and on San Jaun Island infes-

tions were found on two different farms. In all cases but one the moths were found in vetch. This is the beginning of the end . . .

- '37 The pea moth is devouring the home garden peas and the county extension agent urges all garden peas destroyed prior to ripening to break up the life cycle of the insect
- '37 The 1937 pea crop was the largest pea crop ever!! 600 acres were vined producing a total of 70,000 cases of peas
- '38 C. F. Webster, the pea crop is only 45% of normal this year
- '39 Pea moth is still around
- '40 Precipitation was only 60% of normal, pea crop is 40% of normal while 20% of the crops had pea moth and all crops are under quarantine for a time, then only peas sold to California. The pea industry is gone!
- '40 Only ten percent of normal acreage was planted this year in seed peas. The Pea Moth is so prevalent now the industry has been abandoned.
- '41 Pea moths have ruined 300 acres of seed peas
- '41 Vetch seed is the only crop left. During 1940 1,227 acres of seed vetch were planted. Ten percent of the crop was damaged by the pea moth, especially in the fall. The spring and fall crops were damaged by the Sitona Weevil. The County Extension Agent is looking for alternative crops.
- '43 Due to continued barrage by the pea moth, farmers have had to stop using the purple vetch.
- '44 No more vetch or peas in the county
- '58 Seed peas are back, 40 acres of them
- '35 Meenach encouraging the growing of alfalfa to improve soil fertility. Most soils have become deficient in soil organic matter.
- '43 Of the legumes, alfalfa is most important. Farmers need encouragement not to plant nurse crops and in 1943 some progress was visible in that area

- '43 Sitonia Weevil is a problem in the alfalfa
- '44 2,500 acres of alfalfa, no more vetch or peas
- '45 Alfalfa is a lifesaver. It's versatility is well appreciated as hay, summer pasture for dairy cattle, fattening for lambs and hogs, and range for poultry.
- '30 Using alfalfa as poultry feed. 500 farms in the county
- '35 Poultry, limited mostly Shaw Island. The islanders are working on culling by the age of 14 weeks. They are superior layers with a low mortality. There is a problem with a new hybrid bird which has a mortality rate of between 37.3 and 40 percent. Some problems with coccidiosis. For the first time Minorca Leghorn Hybrids are being tried in the county. They produce irregular eggs in all respects: size, shape, quality and vigor. Marketing - the eggs are shipped to the mainland by boat. The eggs are highly desired due to the careful packing and high quality of the eggs. They are clean and kept cooled.
- '37 Ninety percent of all county eggs are produced on Shaw, while 95% of all county turkeys are grown on San Juan Island. Turkey numbers are still at 15,000.
- '37 C.F. Webster takes over
- '41 Problem with rats spreading fowl Tuberculosis
- '43 There are 20,000 chickens, largest flocks are around 2,000 birds
- '48 Wm. W. Baker, poultry has fallen off due to the high cost of feed and transportation
- '49 Baker, three flocks of chickens on Shaw affected with Blue Comb
- '54 There are more egg layers on San Juan Island.
- '54 A drop in egg prices and the high cost of feed is not very conducive to local production, however the county's isolation is helpful in keeping the birds relatively free of disease
- '35 Turkey production is gaining a foothold in the county. The numbers have increased to 8,000 birds.

- '36 Turkeys numbers are up to around 15,000 birds
- '38 Turkeys numbers are down to 6,000 birds
- '43 Now 5,500 turkeys in the county
- '54 This is the end of the turkey
- '25 Dairying is on the decline, sheep numbers increasing
- '35 Dairy is still on the decline. Due to high prices dairy-men are selling their stock with a low retention of young replacement animals.
- '36 There are over 2,000 dairy cows in the county this year
- '37 All Dairymen ship butterfat but for two or three who sell their fresh milk to a dairy in Friday Harbor. It is a bigger problem to ship the high grade butterfat to the creamery at Friday Harbor.
- '39 There is a pasturizing plant on Orcas and income is up 150%. They are selling to local resorts.
- '41 New outbreak of Bangs Disease
- '42 War preparation is on going. A war emergency, government is encouraging gardens, home preservation. There is a labor shortage. Adoption of milking machines
- '42 First milking machines
- '42 Because of transportation problems the county can not market cream for butter. War production demand is for the milk products such as dry milk and cheese.
- '43 Svinth, the dairy industry bothered by Warble infestation
- '43 There are 2,000 cows in the county though high feed prices and low sour cream prices are making dairymen look more towards beef cows which have a better market
- '44 Dairy cows are down ten percent to around 1800 cows.
- '45 The number of dairy cows is down to 1,714
- '46 The price relationship for butterfat is better although the cow price remains the same

- 7
- '47 Fewer dairy cattle due to high prices, high labor costs, and favorable beef prices. "Some years ago the quality of the dairy cattle in the county was so high that buyers used to come to the county regularly for cattle to be shipped to California and elsewhere. Now the buyers that do come are picking up poor grade putcher stock" Smith.
  - '52 - '53 Grade A milk was shipped out as factory milk while skim milk was poured down the drain because of no local demand
  - '53 October, ten producers delivered 30,000# grade A
  - '53 Fifteen Grade A shippers delivered 65,000# grade A
  - '54 Drop in both milk production and demand
  - '67 Artificial insemination first used in the county
  - '61 San Juan County is in the unique position of having the highest demand during the summer period which is the peak production time
  - '62 A milk problem is solved by diverting surplus milk to Burlington. The present bottling plant can only provide for the local market. During the tourist season Lopez milk will be sent to Friday Harbor.
  - '62 The creamery in Friday Harbor goes out of business
  - '43 Beef cattle have started to appear in the county. Farmers favor a beef-milk cross. 80 head presently
  - '46 Beef cattle are gaining a foothold, especially on Orcas
  - '47 Mr. Coffey on Orcas has introduced purebred Herefords
  - '54 More purebred beef cattle, there is an interest in Hereford and Angus breeds
  - '64 The number of beef cattle in the county continues to rise
  - '36 Hogs and sheep are being cultivated on a small scale, the hogs mostly all on Lopez

- 37 The sheep population is at 4,000 head, predominantly Oxford Downs
- 38 There is a trend for sheep to replace dairy cattle because of scarcity of good labor at even higher prices, low price of dairy products and relatively good price of wool and lambs, and sheep feed better on the cut over lands of the county
- 40 7,395 sheep over six months of age, 60 farms flocks (8,000 says records of 1942)
- 43 Numbers of sheep are climbing. Currently there are 8,000 head though many are bothered by tapeworm. 75% of all lambs butchered by a local man were infected by the worm
- 43 Swine are good companions with the dairy industry as they can utilize the skimmings for feed
- 54 Sheep have tick troubles
- 64 Westergreen, the county held three special lambs sales. There was greater market activity and higher prices
- 64 Wool prices were low. Several sheep men liquidated flocks. Total sheep received is less than 3,000
- 68 The sheep population continues to decline

## Footnotes

- <sup>1</sup>United States Census Bureau, Washington State Statistics, Census Bureau, Washinton D.C.,
- <sup>2</sup>Friday Harbor Journal, October 4, 1906.
- <sup>3</sup>H.J. Lochner, San Juan County Annual Narrative Report, April 1939.
- <sup>4</sup>U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Statistics, Census of Agriculture Washington State and County Data, 1920.
- <sup>5</sup>Washington, Descriptive and Statistical Information, Bureau of Statistics and Immigration, Olympia, 1910.
- <sup>6</sup>From an interview with Ted Copper of Shaw Island, summer 1978.
- <sup>7</sup>H.J. Lochner, San Juan County Annual Narrative Report, 1924.

## Bibliography

Annual Narrative Reports, San Juan County, 1921-1978

Bave, Emilia L. San Juan Saga. Friday Harbor, Washington, 1976.

Friday Harbor Journal.

Island Record(Friday Harbor) May 25, 1978.

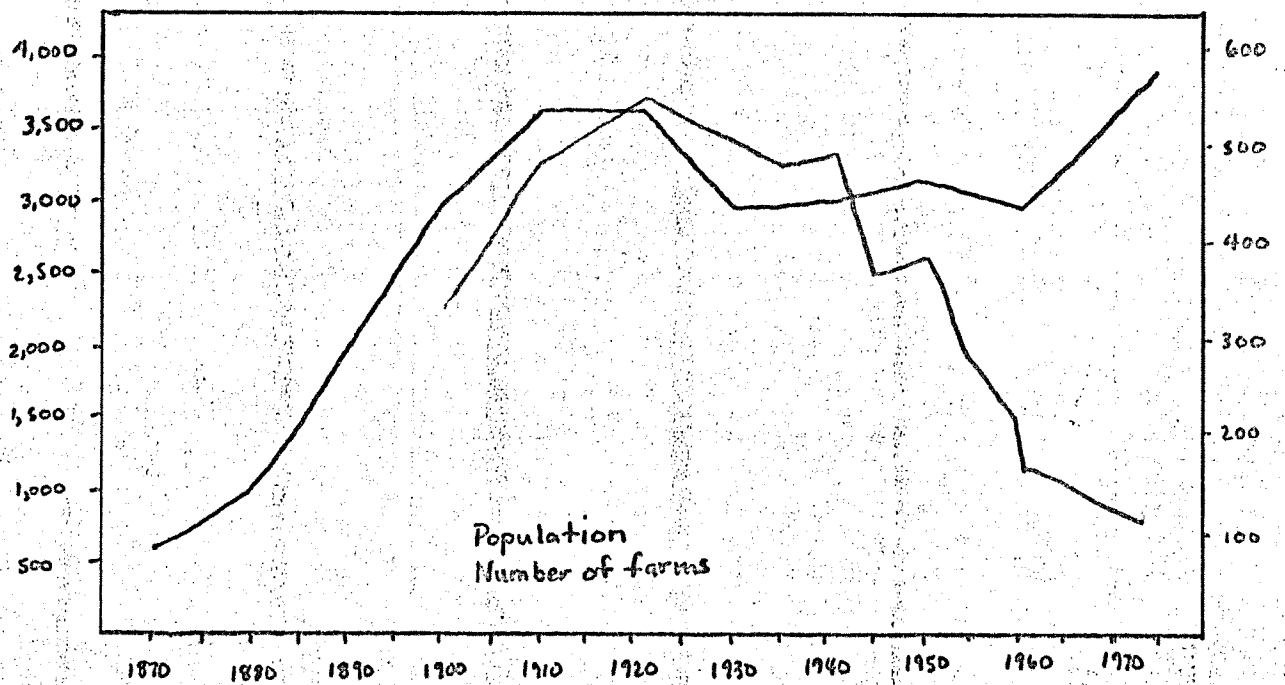
Richardson, David Blair. Pig War Islands. Orcas Publishing Co., 1971.

Soil Survey, San Juan County, Washington, Series 1957, No. 15,  
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington D.C.

United States Dept. of Commerce Bureau of Census, Census of Agriculture Washington State and County Data, 1920-1974.

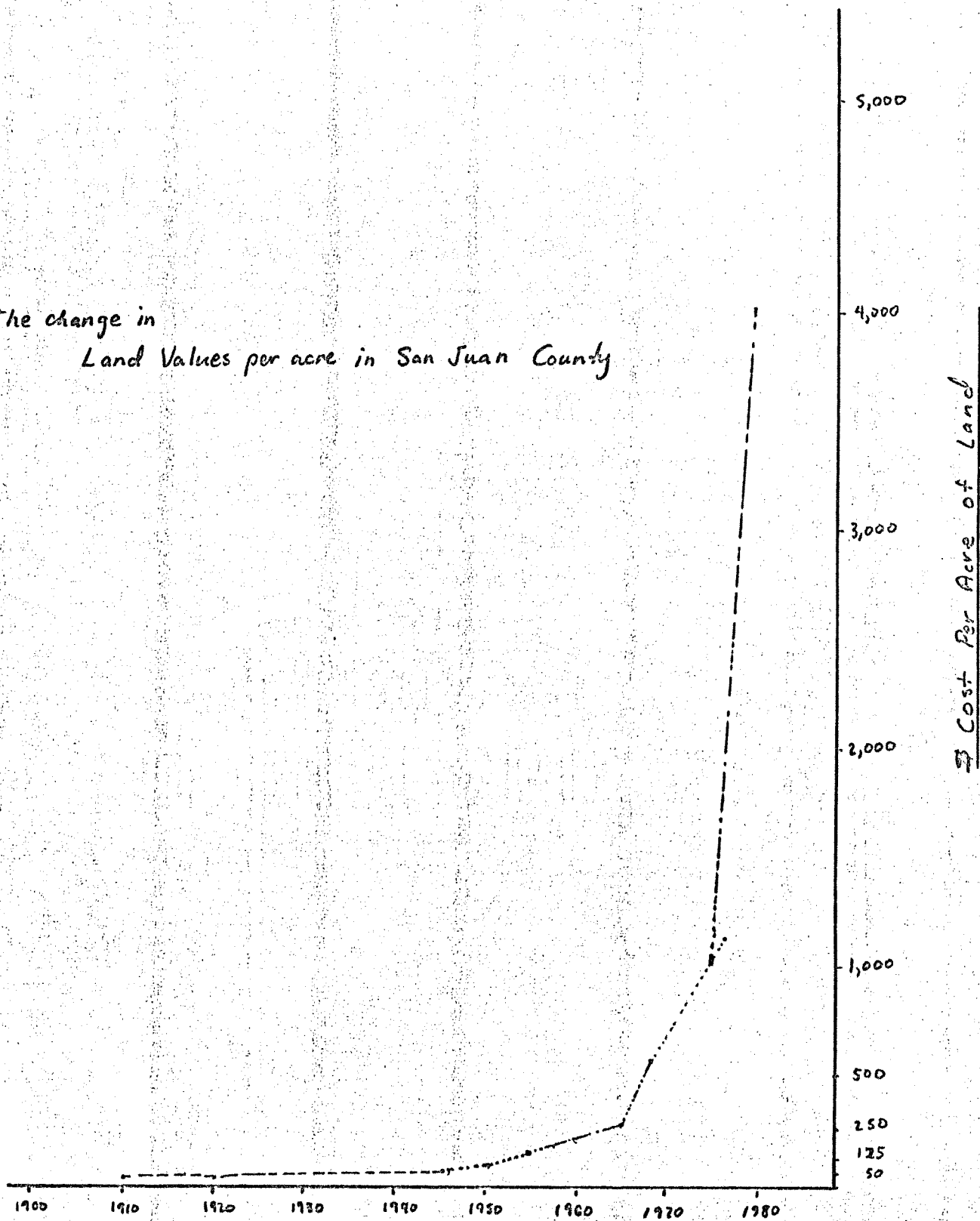
Washington County Agricultural Data Series, San Juan County Agriculture, Washington State Dept. of Agriculture, Olympia 1956.





The Relationship of population and the number of farms in San Juan County.

The change in  
Land Values per acre in San Juan County



# LAND USE IN SAN JUAN COUNTY

NAME

EXPERIMENT NO.

2750

2500

2250

2000

1750

1500

1250

1000

NUMBER OF PARCELS SOLD

'70

'71

'72

'73

'74

'75

'76

'77

'78

22,000

20,000

18,000

16,000

14,000

12,000

10,000

8,000

AVERAGE SALES PRICE PER PARCEL

'70

'71

'72

'73

'74

'75

'76

'77

'78

80

70

60

50

40

30

20

10

DOLLAR VALUE OF SALES IN MILLIONS

'70

'71

'72

'73

'74

'75

'76

'77

'78

Graphs taken from a study by County Assessor Jim Desormeaux published in the May 25, 1978 Island Record.