

# 2019 San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit Report

2019 SAN JUAN ISLANDS

# Agricultural Summit

FRIDAY HARBOR

Saturday & Sunday  
**FEB 2&3**

Featuring **Keynote Speaker:**  
**Heidi Roop**  
U.W. Climate  
Impacts Group

**For Tickets & Information**  
visit us online at <https://bit.ly/2C5cqB6>  
or contact us at [sji.agsummit@wsu.edu](mailto:sji.agsummit@wsu.edu)



## 2019 Summit Partners:



**San Juan County**

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



**SAN JUAN ISLANDS  
AGRICULTURAL GUILD**

SAN JUAN ISLANDS



OAK KNOLL FARM



**Midnight's  
Farm**



**Agricultural  
Resources  
Committee  
of San Juan County**

The event is supported in part by USDA -NIFA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program Award #: 2016-70017-25526

Eventbrite



Reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and special needs who contact [sji.agsummit@wsu.edu](mailto:sji.agsummit@wsu.edu) or 360 370-7667 at least two weeks prior to the event.  
Extension programs are available to all without discrimination.

## Summary

2019 was the seventh year of the Agricultural Summit, and the third time it has been held on San Juan Island. Below is a summary of the schedule, key indicators of impact, and feedback from more than one hundred evaluation responses received during the event. Responses to this year's Summit were positive, with a diverse range of farming experience; more than one-third were beginning farmers. Participants rated the summit an average of 4.5/5. 82% were returning attendees, with 83% reporting that they had made changes to their enterprise based on knowledge from previous Summits.

## Steering Committee

Adam Greene Oak Knoll Farm

Angie Shephard Washington State University Extension

Brook Brouwer Washington State University Extension, *Lead*

Erin Wygant San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

Faith Van De Putte Midnight's Farm

Matt Claussen San Juan Islands Conservation District

Peggy Bill San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild- Beginning Farmers and Ranchers

Steph Coffey San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild

## Staff

Rhys Hansen- Washington State University Extension SJI Ag Summit Coordinator

Kelsey Green- Washington State University Extension Day-of Support

## Partner Organizations

Agricultural Resources Committee of San Juan County

Oak Knoll Farm

Midnight's Farm

San Juan County

San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild

San Juan Islands Conservation District

San Juan Island Farmers Market

San Juan Island Food Co-op

San Juan Islands Visitors Bureau

WSU Extension - San Juan County *Lead*



# Schedule Summary

## Saturday February 2

7:45 AM - 2:00 PM Saturday Registration *at Brickworks*

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Saturday Morning Workshops *at FH Middle School, SJI Grange, New Hannah Farm, Oak Knoll Farm*

12:00 - 2:00 PM Lunch Break

2:00 - 4:30 PM Saturday Afternoon Workshops *at SJI Distillery, San Juan Sea Salt, Lost Valley Farm, SJI Grange*

5:00 -6:00 PM Climate Change Fireside Chat with Keynote Dr. Heidi Roop *at Brickworks*

6:00 - 9:00 PM Summit Hoedown *at Brickworks*

## Sunday February 3 *at FH Middle School*

7:15 AM - 12:00 PM Sunday Registration

7:15 - 8:15 AM Breakfast

8:15 - 8:30 AM Welcome Gathering

8:45 - 10:15 AM Morning Session 1

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Morning Session 2

12:15 - 1:15 PM Keynote Address: Dr. Heidi Roop UW Climate Impacts Group

1:15 - 2:15 PM Lunch

2:30 - 4:00 PM Afternoon Session

4:15 PM - 4:45 PM Closing Gathering

## Summit Hoedown Photos



Photos by Faith Van de Putte and Rhys Hansen

# Summit Ratings

This information is collected from 144 evaluation sheets returned from participants. Sunday participants returned 73 evaluations, and Saturday participants returned 71.

## Saturday Workshops

Name of Workshop	# of attendees	Rating (1-5)
Funding for Farmers	8	4.3
Value Added Mini-Tour	10	4.4
Developing an Annual Crop Rotation Plan	9	4.2
Pasture and Hayland Evaluation	31	4.5
Understanding and Managing Soil Health	25	4.1
Legal and Financial Tips for Farmers	13	4.4
Keeping it Cool with Cold Storage	8	4.6



Photos by Brook Brouwer and Faith Van de Putte

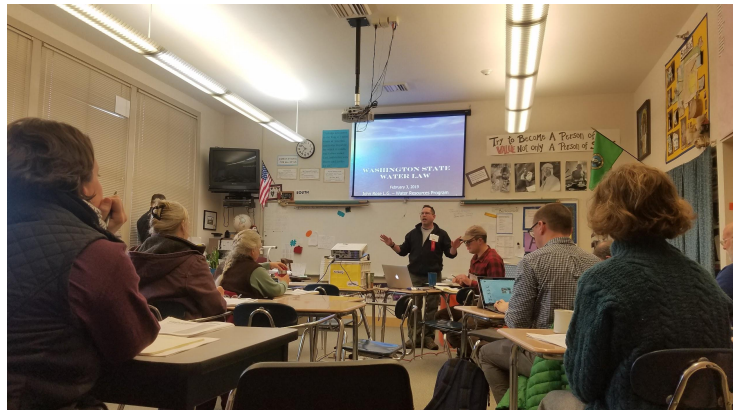
### Selected Comments:

- [Cold Storage] Nice mix of speakers. I really enjoyed the farm tour and learning from Zach.
- [Crop Rotation] It was nice to have a practical and academic mix
- [Legal and Financial] Both of the speakers were very knowledgeable and helpful. Appreciated their answers to questions and using questions/answers as a way to understand underlying concepts.
- [Legal and Financial] Good work communicating very complex topics!
- [Hayland] Fantastic very informative
- [Mini Tour] Excellent! Well organized and very informative. Thank you!



## Sunday Classroom Session

Name of Session	# of attendees	Rating (1-5)
Plant Breeding and Climate Change	20	4.8
Community Climate Conversation	23	4.1
Direct Marketing Requirements	12	4
Pasture Renovation	41	4.7
Ginseng, Rhubarb, Woolly Dogs	21	4.8
Marketing Your Farm Business	16	4.7
Understanding the Soil Under Your Farm	32	4.25
County Comp Plan & You	23	4.3
High-Value Fruit Production	31	4.4
Water for Farming	17	4.8
Labor on the Farm	9	4.1



### Selected Comments

- Really appreciated the way the presenters distilled the comp plan info and made it understandable and emphasize why it matters. Very relevant to the community.
- Covered lots of info in very clear, concise format. Great job.
- Overall a wonderful, stimulating and very educational summit. Hard to choose which class to attend.
- One of the most helpful and informative Summits I've ever been to

## Attendance and Demographics

Saturday Workshop (unique attendees)	78
Sunday Sessions	106
Percentage of attendees from San Juan County*	82%
Percentage of attendees who are full or part-time farmers*	54%
Percentage of attendees who are beginning farmers (0-10 years)*	31%
Percentage of attendees who are experienced farmers (10-20 years)*	28%
Acreage managed by attendees	825-1,395 acres

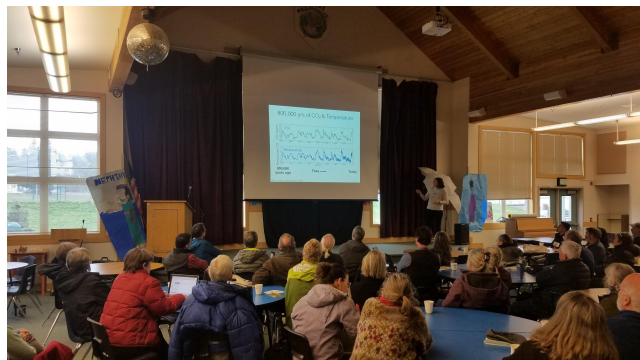
\*Attendee demographics represent only the 74 Sunday attendees who filled out evaluations

## 2019 Successes

- Keynote Speaker was well received by both Summit attendees and Friday Harbor community at large. Attendees rated her keynote 4.6/6, and more than 30 people attended her free Climate Change Fireside Chat despite freezing weather
- Summit Hoedown had more than 100 people attend, including a number of community members who were not otherwise participating in the Summit. Rated 4.6/5, a significant jump over the previous years ratings.
- Maintained high level of participant overall satisfaction, rating 4.5/5

Percentage of attendees who plan on making changes based on new info	<b>70%</b>
Percentage of attendees who have made changes based on past Summits	<b>83%</b>

Percentage of attendees who are repeat participants	<b>82%</b>
Percentage of attendees want the Summit to happen every year	<b>78%</b>



## Ag Summit Impact Over Time

Below is a table showing key indicators of the Summit's success and impact over the last four years. Data from the first three years of the Summit is unavailable.

	2016	2017	2018	2019
Classroom Session Registration	-	105	137	132
Workshop Registrations	-	61	87	96
Overall Summit Rating (1-5)	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Percentage of attendees who are farmers	63%	31%	67%	54%
Indicated they will make changes to their business based on information at the Summit	70%	75%	80%	74%
Percentage of repeat attendees	-	53%	73%	82%

## Closing & Ag Summit 2020

From the evaluations, it is clear that the Summit continues to provide valuable education to our agricultural producers. Through the workshops and sessions, producers identified opportunities to deepen their learning- connecting with local and regional experts to work beyond the Summit into the next season. Participants consistently request that the Summit be held each year on rotating islands to make attending accessible to a variety of attendees.

Next year the Summit will be held on Orcas Island at Camp Orkila February 7-9th, 2020. The majority of the Steering Committee has committed to returning for another year, and is excited to incorporate feedback and continue to improve our program.

