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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WSU Skagit County Extension helps people develop leadership skills and use research-based knowledge to improve their economic status and quality of life.

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WSU SKAGIT COUNTY EXTENSION—TEACH, LEARN, GROW
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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, Suia-gale 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.

POPULATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<td>35,142</td>
<td>43,273</td>
<td>52,381</td>
<td>64,138</td>
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<td>102,300</td>
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Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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).
2013 WEATHER PICTURE

The winter of 2012/2013 did not have an adverse impact on the perennial cropping systems with temperatures staying very mild. Spring began with typical rains early on in March. As farmers were getting ready to start their spring cultivation, they received small rainfall events that kept them out of their fields until the last week in March. In April over 4.6 inches of rain was recorded at WSU NWREC; the only good news is not many crops had been planted prior to this rain. This had many farmers thinking that the major spring rain events were complete; unfortunately, this was not the case as 2.58 inches were recorded at WSU NWREC in the month of May. Although 2013 will go down in the record books as another poor spring in western Washington, it was a big improvement over the 2010 growing season where massive amounts of crops were ruined by large rain storms in May and June after crops were in the field. Summer turned out some warm, dry weather (no rainfall in July) and farmers irrigated more than average. September started us off with 4.10 inches of rain and made harvest very difficult. Over 1000 acres of potatoes were left in the ground in the winter of 2013-2014.

2013 Skagit County Weather as recorded at WSU NWREC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>High</th>
<th>Low</th>
<th>Monthly Average</th>
<th>Precipitation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>43.1</td>
<td>32.7</td>
<td>37.2</td>
<td>5.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>47.9</td>
<td>38.4</td>
<td>43.0</td>
<td>2.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>53.5</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>45.7</td>
<td>2.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>55.7</td>
<td>41.7</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>4.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>64.7</td>
<td>46.8</td>
<td>55.4</td>
<td>2.58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>69.9</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>60.5</td>
<td>1.27</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>74.8</td>
<td>51.8</td>
<td>62.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>75.1</td>
<td>54.5</td>
<td>63.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>67.9</td>
<td>52.8</td>
<td>59.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>56.8</td>
<td>42.1</td>
<td>49.1</td>
<td>1.51</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>50.5</td>
<td>38.1</td>
<td>43.7</td>
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<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>42.6</td>
<td>31.2</td>
<td>37.1</td>
<td>2.34</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Year Total – 30.47

Source: http://www.weather.wsu.edu/
**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.

**Fall Freeze Probabilities**

![Fall Freeze Probabilities Graph]

**Spring Freeze Probabilities**

![Spring Freeze Probabilities Graph]
IRRIGATION
In July, and August, irrigation was used on approximately 16,000 acres of cropland in 2013. This was slightly above average for Skagit County due to an extremely dry July. 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 seven vegetable seed companies in the county, most of which market products worldwide.
♦ With the closure of Pleasant Valley Farms (pickles) in 2013 there is only one remaining processing company in Skagit County, Sakuma Brothers. Sakuma Brothers is a vertically integrated farm and also purchases strawberries, blueberries and blackberries from area growers. These crops are noted for their superior quality.
♦ 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 USA.
♦ Skagit County ranks fifth in dairy production in Washington State.

(Continued on next page)
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.

In 1999, the first Skagit Valley Farm Tour: A Festival of Family Farms was organized by WSU Skagit County Cooperative Extension, with cooperation from Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and the Skagit Valley Herald. Every year approximately 20,000 visitors enjoy the Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms.

Organic acreage in Skagit County is increasing. In 2013 there were no additional certified organic farmers added to the area; however acreages increased from 5,627 acres in certified organic production in 2011 to 6,710 acres in 2013. Organic production in Skagit County is valued at $14,238,853 making it the highest organic agricultural producing county in Western Washington.


### 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.

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<td>January 1, 2011</td>
<td>8.67</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 1, 2014</td>
<td>9.32</td>
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</table>
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 2013 Skagit crop showed below 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, though surveys show populations are expanding throughout the county.

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. 2013 marked the beginning of a large commercial blueberry planting in Eastern Skagit County.

BLACKBERRIES
2013 marked the first year in recent history for a good blackberry crop. In previous years frost had 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 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 2013 largely for the nutrient and disease suppression that brassica crops provide.

CHICKENS AND EGGS
Washington is ranked 16th in the nation for egg production. Two companies produce the majority of the eggs in Skagit County: Day Creek Organic Farms, and National Foods. These two farms account for hundreds of millions of eggs being produced in Skagit County and Washington State.

Egg prices dropped 2.3 percent from April to May but have increased 10.1 percent since this time last year. The recent increases in egg prices, partly driven by a sharp increase in exports, have been larger than seasonal expectations. However, egg production has increased in the first quarter of 2014, and that may somewhat ease higher-than-expected egg prices at the grocery store. 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 Pleasant Valley Farms in La Conner, WA. Pleasant Valley Farms filed for bankruptcy in 2013 and closed their doors forever.
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 was up for 2013. The advantage in 2013 was that once the wet spring turned, things opened up for the growers, they scrambled to get enough water on the crop in July and then received an abundance of rainfall in September. There were over 1000 acres of potatoes that were not harvested in 2013 based on those heavy rains.

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 2013 raspberry crop continued to be good due to poor production worldwide and gradually increasing demand. In Skagit County, yields and quality were lower than normal due to strong rains that occurred at harvest.

In 2013 Sakuma Brother farm removed the majority of their raspberry fields. The majority of raspberries produced in Skagit County are for fresh consumption.

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.

(continued on next page)
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 Skagit County Seed Industry growing in Skagit County.

Beet Seeds yields were reduced up to 1/3 in Skagit and Snohomish Counties for 2010-2013. Dr. Lindsey Dutoit at WSU NWREC in Mount Vernon has created several programs from disease to fertility to address reduced yields in beet seed. Extension Educator Don McMoran has been sending out bi-weekly electronic Irrigation Scheduler Mobile updates in 2014 to address irrigation water shortages in beet seed production.

Cabbage seed production was reduced by 1/3 due to extreme winter weather conditions in the 2013-2014 growing season.

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

Some turf and forage grasses for seed are also grown in the valley, vary widely depending upon market volatility.

**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.
2013 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<th>Total Pounds</th>
<th>Uniform Average</th>
<th>Annual Total Milk Value</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Start of Year</td>
<td>End of Year</td>
<td>Milk Produced</td>
<td>Milk Price/cwt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>280,182,987</td>
<td>18.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>270,573,960</td>
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<td>46</td>
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Things are looking BUTTER for the dairy industry! After decades when profits--if they existed--were small, dairy producers are finally experiencing some financial success for all their efforts. What is driving record prices for dairy products? DEMAND. Demand for dairy products is at an all-time high, thanks to rapid international market expansion and continued domestic demand for cheese, butter and high-end yogurts. Increasingly-affluent consumers in developing markets, particularly China, are clamoring for all the dairy products the U.S. can export. This increased international demand easily outpaces any production increase the industry is able to generate. In Skagit County, production was increased 3% from 2012. The county's milk cow inventory held steady from 2012 at 14,900 head. The number of dairy farms in the county shipping milk started the year with 30 and ended with 29. (The increased production and price increase created $6 million more for Skagit economy over 2012.)

Although rising feed, fertilizer and fuel costs have stabilized or moderated somewhat from 2012, these three input areas continue to take a huge bite out of income for dairy producers. Additional pressure comes from loss of access to leaseable land due to competition from other agricultural enterprises. Dairy producers are receiving a little over half the retail price paid by consumers for a gallon of milk.

What are dairy producers doing with their increased income? The same as other other good resource managers would do--paying down debt, replacing outdated equipment, investing in worker training and putting money in the bank to help reduce the impact of less lucrative times that are always just around the corner. Thanks to higher milk payments, farm families are able to modify facilities to improve cow comfort; they are also more able to save money for their children's college education.
# 2013 Milk Production Data for Skagit County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Milk Pounds</th>
<th>Price/cwt</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
<th>Dairies</th>
<th>*Milk Income/dairy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>280,182,987</td>
<td>18.84</td>
<td>$52,786,474.75</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$1,751,417.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>270,573,960</td>
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<td>2008</td>
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<td>$1,587,163.73</td>
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*Statistical averages

## 2013 Monthly Data

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<th>Milk Pounds</th>
<th>Price/cwt</th>
<th>Total Value</th>
<th>Dairies</th>
<th>Milk Income/dairy</th>
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<td>**TOTALS</td>
<td>280,182,987</td>
<td>18.84 ave</td>
<td>$52,805,063.33</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>$1,751,417.02</td>
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*In August and September, 6 and 9 dairies, respectively, chose to market their milk through different marketing channels, so their data was not captured by the PNW Federal Milk Marketing Order of the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Dairy Program.

The milk pounds, price/cwt., total value and milk income/dairy figures shown here are extrapolated from an average of the annual daily production in 2013, using each month's price/cwt.

Milk income/dairy was probably a little higher than shown for these two months due to producers taking advantage of more lucrative marketing opportunities elsewhere.

**Sources:**
## SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY *

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<td>xxx</td>
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<td>650</td>
<td>1,081</td>
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<td>xxx</td>
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<td>665</td>
<td>975</td>
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<td>550</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<td>1,098</td>
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<td>Vegetable Seed [4]</td>
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<td>2669.7</td>
<td>3800</td>
<td>3,375</td>
<td>4,891</td>
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</table>

1) Includes no nonbearing trees.
2) Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn & grass silage, grass, oats, pea hay, 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 2007 and can be viewed at the following web site: http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Getting Started/Guide to Census Products/index.asp

### TYPICAL YIELDS (per/acre)

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<th>Crop</th>
<th>YIELD</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blueberries</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flower bulbs</td>
<td>50,000 bulbs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cucumbers</td>
<td>7 ton-10 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green peas</td>
<td>2 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Potatoes</td>
<td>15-20 tons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Raspberries</td>
<td>3.5-4.5 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryegrass seed</td>
<td>1500 lbs</td>
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</table>
**STATISTICAL SUMMARIES:**

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</thead>
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<td>Apples (1)</td>
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<td>865,200</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blackberries</td>
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<td>n/a</td>
<td>n/a</td>
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<tr>
<td>Blueberries</td>
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<td>xxx</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrots processing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cucumbers (processing)</td>
<td>500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>5,220,773</td>
<td>4,944,034</td>
<td>1,920,930</td>
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<td>Dairy (milk sold)</td>
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<td>40,854,426</td>
<td>43,895,519</td>
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<td>23,885,268</td>
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<td>Eggs and Fryers (2)</td>
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<td>25,000,000</td>
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<td>Field Crops (3)</td>
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<td>50,000,000</td>
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<td>See separate listings</td>
<td>See separate listings</td>
<td>1,179,450</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vegetable Seed (5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>TOTALS</td>
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<td>227,351,000</td>
<td>165,141,854</td>
<td>63,181,133</td>
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</table>

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, pea hay, 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).
### VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (ACRES)

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<tr>
<th>Harvest Year</th>
<th>Skagit County</th>
<th>Total Clallam</th>
<th>Total Cowlitz</th>
<th>Total Island</th>
<th>Total Jeffer</th>
<th>Total Lewis</th>
<th>Total Snohomish</th>
<th>Total Whatcom</th>
<th>Total Western WA</th>
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Beginning in 2006 production numbers are based on “Pinned” acres by seed company representation at WSU NWREC on March 1st and June 1st.
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<th>Harvest Year</th>
<th>Skagit</th>
<th>Clallam</th>
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<th>Jefferson</th>
<th>Lewis</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<th>Spinach</th>
<th>Cabbage</th>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Dollars**

_Vegetable Seed Production in Western Washington_
## CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE
### COUNTY PROFILE

**Skagit County**  
**Washington**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>% change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of Farms</td>
<td>1,074</td>
<td>1,215</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land in Farms</td>
<td>106,538 acres</td>
<td>108,541 acres</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Size of Farm</td>
<td>99 acres</td>
<td>89 acres</td>
<td>+11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market Value of Products Sold</td>
<td>$272,275,000</td>
<td>$256,248,000</td>
<td>+6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crop Sales</td>
<td>$201,007,000 (74 percent)</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livestock Sales</td>
<td>$71,268,000 (26 percent)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Per Farm</td>
<td>$253,515</td>
<td>$210,904</td>
<td>+20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government Payments</td>
<td>$1,442,000</td>
<td>$630,000</td>
<td>+129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Per Farm Receiving Payments</td>
<td>$12,121</td>
<td>$5,835</td>
<td>+108</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Farms by Size, 2012**

**Land in Farms, 2012 by Land Use**

- Cropland: 62.7%
- Pastureland: 14.0%
- Woodland: 12.4%
- Other uses: 11.0%
## COMMERCIAL CROPS GROWN IN SKAGIT COUNTY

**Fruit**
- Blackberry
- Blueberry
- Boysenberry*
- Currant*
- Lingonberry*
- Loganberry*
- Marionberry*
- 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 Crops - Other**
- Fava bean
- 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
- Sod
- Tea*

*Less than ten acres
ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES SERVING SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Ag Alterna-gRD5ve
Agrilink Foods
Bio Huma Netics, Inc.
Brim Tractor
Cascadian Farms & Muir Glen
Cucumber Industry Advisory Committee
D & D Farms
Farm Service Administration
Farmers Equipment Co.
Natural Resources Conservation Service
North Washington Implement
NW Ag Business Center
NW Agricultural Research Foundation
NW Bulb Growers Assn.
NW Food Processors Assn.
Puget Sound Seed Growers Assn.
Rijk Zwaan Seed
Sakata Seed Company
Sakuma Bros.
Schafer Agriculture Services
Skagit Conservation District
Skagit County Cattlemen’s Assn.
Skagit County Dairy Federation
Skagit County Farm Bureau
Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program
Skagit County Horticultural Pest and Disease
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
We wish to express our appreciation to the following for their assistance in the gathering of data for this report:

Ag Tech Services
Agriculture Business Center
Capital Press
Day Creek Poultry Farms
Draper Valley Farms, Inc.
Economic Development Association of Skagit County
Farm Service Agency
Hedlin Farms
Hughes Farms
Knutzen Farms
McMoran Farms
Merritt's Apples
Mike and Jean's Berry Farm
Mother Flight Farm
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
National Foods
Norm Nelson, Inc.
North Fork Farms
North Fork Nursery
Puget Sound Potatoes
Ralph's Greenhouse
Sakuma Bros. Farm
Sakata Seed Company
Schafer Ag Services, LLC
Seminis Vegetable Seed Co.
Skagit Farmers Supply
Skagit Seed Services
Skagit Valley Herald
Sterling Hills Potato Farm
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Twin City Foods
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