

2007 Skagit County Agriculture Statistics



Greetings!

Washington State University Skagit County Extension has been keeping crop records since 1921. 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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HELPING YOU PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK

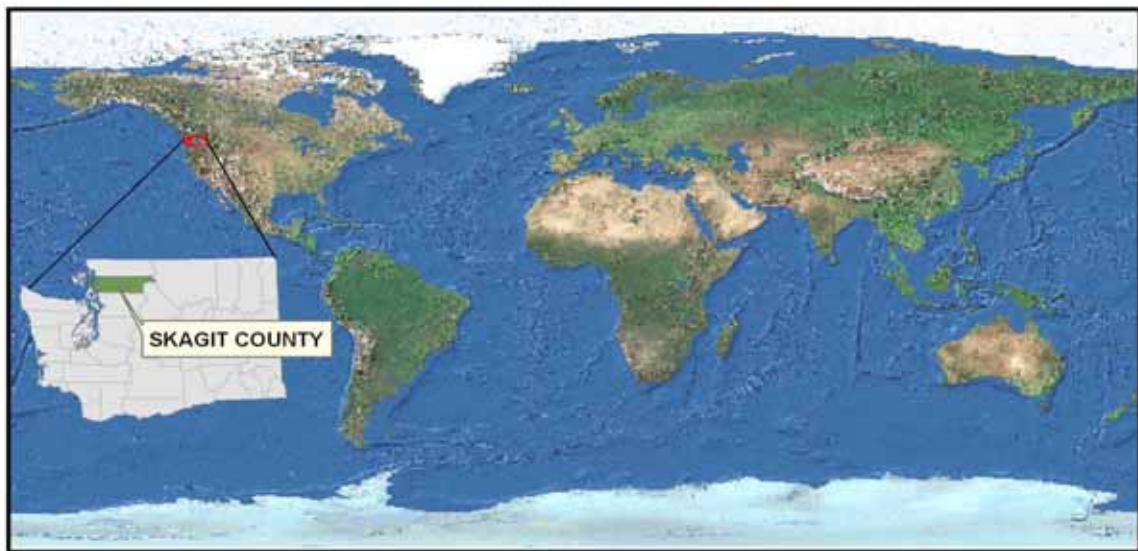
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SKAGIT COUNTY

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 farm land before emptying into Puget Sound.



POPULATION

1930	1950	1970	1980	1990	2000	2005	2007
35,142	43,273	52,381	64,138	79,555	102,300	110,900	115,300

Source: WA State Office of Financial Management

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.

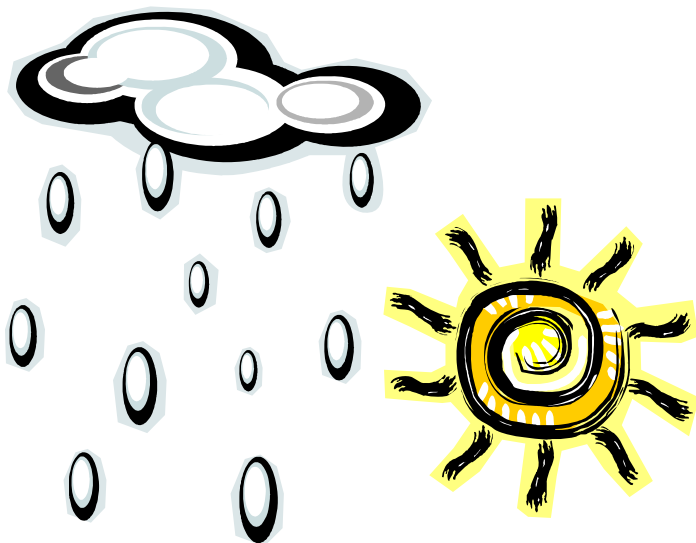
Approximately 20% of the rainfall in Mount Vernon occurs June through September. The sun shines 65% of the time in summer, and 25% of the time in winter.

Temperature:

The highest temperature ever on record at the WSU Northwest 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).

2007 WEATHER PICTURE

2007 began with typical rains early on and kept growers out of their fields until April. Lack of moisture in early June stressed new plantings and some farmers decided to supplement irrigation but at much lower levels than seen in the summer of 2006. Once again Mother Nature did make up for herself with a very high amounts of rainfall in September and October which made it especially tough on area potato growers. Precipitation was on par with the 40-year norm for the year but the timing of the rains seemed to be especially difficult on area producers especially those in vegetable seed production.



2007 Skagit County Weather As recorded at WSU NWREC

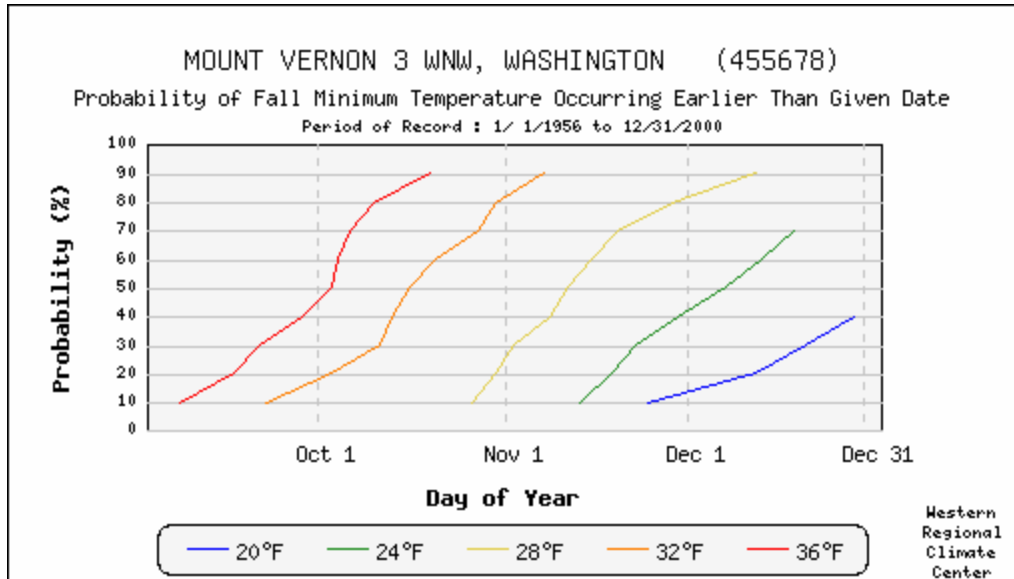
Month	High	Low	Monthly Average	Precipitation
January	54.5	12.3	36.2	5.47
February	59.7	22.0	41.5	2.96
March	66.4	20.3	45.3	4.52
April	71.9	31.1	47.4	.89
May	79.0	34.7	52.3	1.09
June	78.7	41.4	56.0	1.58
July	87.5	45.5	62.0	1.27
August	79.0	44.0	59.9	.81
September	79.2	37.4	54.6	2.35
October	69.3	30.9	48.0	4.83
November	57.3	24.5	41.1	2.68
December	57.4	23.7	38.3	3.71
				32.16 Total

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

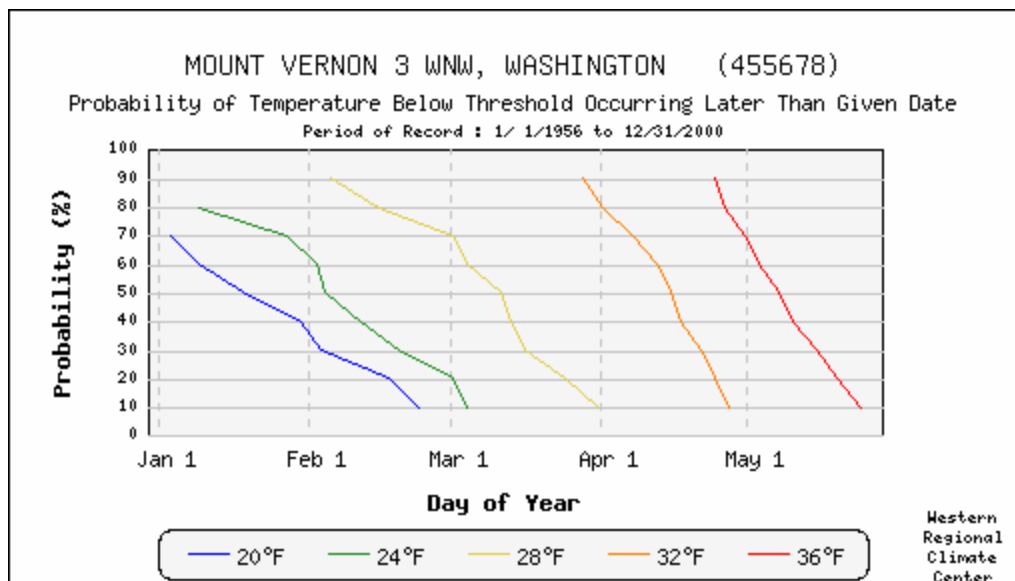
Frost Free Days:

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



Spring Freeze Probabilities

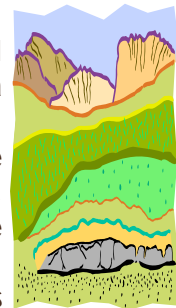


IRRIGATION

In June, July, and August, irrigation is used on approximately 6,000 acres of cropland in 2007, thanks in part to summer rains. The main crops irrigated are grass pasture, raspberries, blueberries, potatoes, cucumbers 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.

Erosion is usually not a major problem in the valley, although considerable stream cutting has occurred in some sections along the Skagit River. Flooding has contributed to loss of topsoil in some areas.

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. About a third of the world's beet seed are grown in the Valley.

There are two processing companies in the area which secure raw products from Skagit County growers. The major crops grown for freezing are peas (Twin City Foods), raspberries, strawberries, and blueberries (Sakuma Brothers). 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 United States.

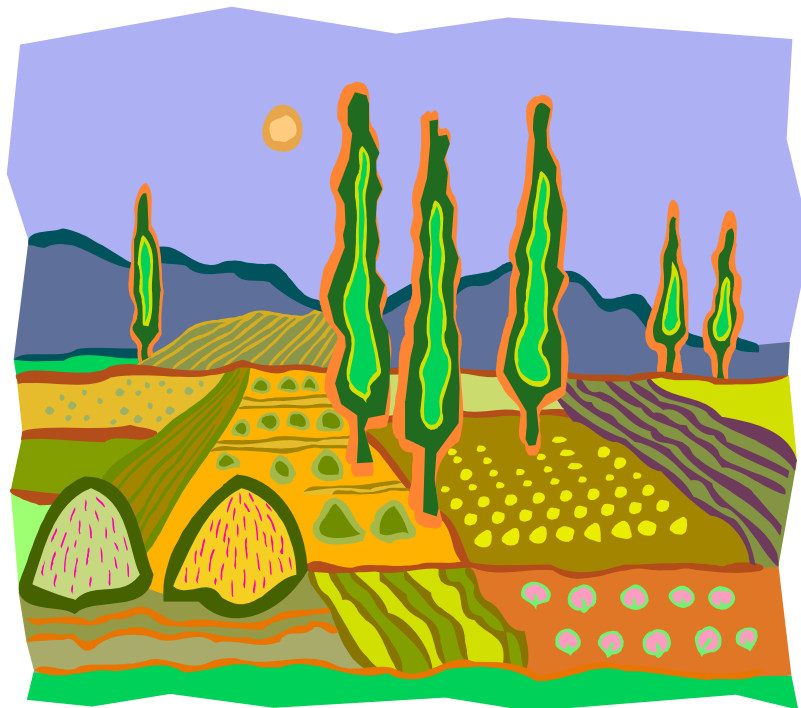
Skagit County ranks fourth in dairy production in Washington State.

Skagit grape growers have planted 100 acres over the past 5 years. This industry is expected to increase exponentially in the future.

About 5,000 Trumpeter and Tundra swans, 80,000 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 *Festival of Family Farms* was organized by WSU Skagit County Cooperative Extension, with cooperation from Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland and the Skagit Valley Herald. Farm visitors numbered 2,500 in 1999; 3,700 in 2000; 4,000 in 2001, 5,000 in 2002, 5,800 in 2003, 15,000 in 2006 and 9,900 in 2007 due to inclement weather. Beginning in 2007 the festival will be referred to as the **Skagit Valley Farm Tour: A Festival of Family Farms**, to more correctly identify what the event is.

Organic acreage in Skagit County is on the increase as consumers demand organic products Skagit Valley producers have ramped up to meet that need. In 2006 there were 3162.5 acres in certified organic production under 33 certified organic farms in Skagit County. There is also 281.5 acres in transition into the certified organic program for 2006 in Skagit County. Over all the market value of organic production is over 5 million dollars which is the fifth highest in Washington State and the highest 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.

Washington State Minimum Wage

Effective Date	Dollars per Hour
June 30, 1961	1.15
January 1, 1962	1.25
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

CROPS

The processing industry revolves around green peas. The crop is fully mechanized from planting through processing. Green pea acreage, which has averaged around 12,000 acres in past years, is now down to about 6500 acres as a result of the closure of National Frozen Foods in 2000. As a result, growers have been experimenting with new crops such as buckwheat, artichokes, cherries, and wine grapes. Others were attempting to put the land to good use by planting barley, corn, pasture grass, and hay. A large number of acres was planted to cover crops, typically cereal rye, for overwintering.

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 increased rapidly between 1995 and 1998 and is now on the decline, with low prices causing a slump in the industry. The 2007 Skagit crop showed below average yields and average quality.

Our coastal climate allows us to grow varieties of high quality 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 in high demand.

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.

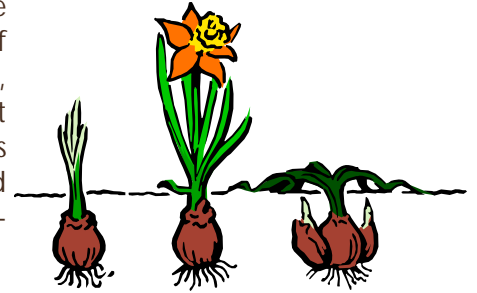
BLUEBERRIES

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 more slowly, which results in more sugar. Skagit county grows about 30% of the state's total production with more acres going in every year. About 65% of the acreage planted in the county has not yet come into full bearing. Blueberry acreage and consumer demand have been growing and continue to grow. In January, 2002, USDA reported a 50% growth in blueberry production over the previous year in the U.S. and an 18% growth over the previous five-years average production. The Pacific Northwest is currently the fastest growing segment of the industry in the U.S. In 2007, good prices, strong demand, low inventories, and sweet berries added up to a good year for growers; however with increased planting and more acres expected to come into production, 2007 is expected to be the best year for Blueberry pricing in this decade.

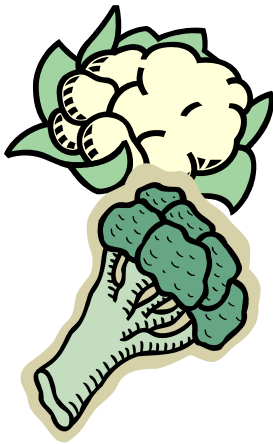


BULB CROPS

Approximately 1,300 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 40 million bulbs are produced in the county. About 50 million cut flowers are grown in greenhouses and fields, accounting for about 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 world wide for its Tulip Festival, which occurs the first three weeks 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 \$12 million in annual gross income, \$3 million of which is in tulip bulb and flower sales. Since 1968, flower prices have increased five-fold, while bulbs have only doubled. About 400 workers are used to pick the crop. There are now three bulb-growing farms in the region.



CAULIFLOWER AND BROCCOLI

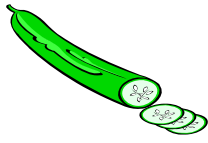
All cauliflower and broccoli are grown for fresh market. Head quality is exceptionally high in this region. Approximately 60% to 80% of the broccoli and cauliflower grown in Skagit is consumed in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Skagit farmers grew about 1,000 acres of cauliflower and broccoli this year. Farmers in the Skagit Valley reduced acreages for Cauliflower and Broccoli for the 2007 season due to low commodity prices in the 2005 growing season.

Chickens and Eggs

Washington is ranked 16th in the nation for egg production. Three companies produce the majority of the eggs in Skagit county: Dynes, Day Creek Organic Farms, and Dai-Zen. These three farms account for about 10 million eggs being produced in Skagit County every year. The price of eggs consumers pay for eggs increased dramatically in 2007 due to added food and fuel prices for egg producers.

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. On April 15th Draper Valley Farms was sold to Booth Creek who intend to run the company in the same manor as the previous owners.





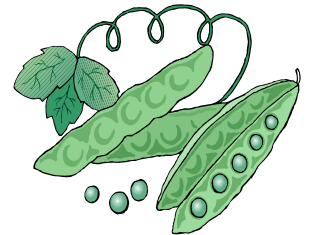
CUCUMBERS

Most of the pickling cucumbers grown in the state are produced in Skagit County. Cool summer temperatures are a plus for growing cucumbers here, because slower crop development allows pickers to harvest more of the highly desirable smaller sizes. About 30% are hand picked, but as labor costs continue to increase, growers are increasingly shifting to machine harvest. The cucumbers are transported south for sorting and packing. The majority of Skagit cucumbers are processed under the Nalley's and Steinfeld's labels, both companies now being owned by Dean Foods. Dean Foods has decided to move its pickle production to Mexico and India for the 2008 growing season. This will leave Locally-owned Pleasant Valley Farms pickling plant as the only remaining local producer of pickles in Skagit County.

Some fresh cucumbers are also produced. About half the growers in the Valley irrigate the crop in dry years. Production was about 25,000 tons in 2007.

PEAS

All peas in the county go to Twin City Foods in Stanwood for freezing. Skagit County green peas are among the finest in the world for quality and yields. The effects of reducing pea acreage by more than half due to the departure of National Frozen Foods is that the less desirable ground now is not being planted in peas. 2007 yields were average at about 2 tons per acre.



POTATOES



Potato acreage consists primarily of fresh market reds, whites, yellows, purple, fingerlings and some chipping potatoes. Skagit spuds are in demand for their high quality. Late blight disease is a constant threat to the industry, and growers use integrated pest management practices to minimize their losses from this fungal pathogen. Because of the need for a three-year rotation, there is limited ground available for the 13,250 acres of spuds currently grown here. Overall yield were average with very good quality for 2007 and pricing that started lower than average and ended up above average for those growers who stored their potatoes later into the season.

RASPBERRIES

About 40% of the acreage in Skagit County is harvested by hand, and the rest is machine harvested. The primary varieties are Willamette and Meeker. A majority of the crop is processed into juice, preserves, yogurt, bakery ingredients, and frozen products. Skagit County produces about 10% of the state's crop. Washington produces about 75% of the total US production of frozen red raspberries, and 83% of that is from Whatcom and Skagit counties. 95% of Washington state's raspberries go into processing for juices, preserves, yogurt, frozen berries and bakery ingredients.



Prices for the 2007 raspberry crop increased from 2006 and should encourage raspberry farmers from tearing out their raspberry fields in hopes of finding a better returning crop. Skagit Raspberry acreage was reduced from the commodity pricing of the 2006 season.

SEED CROPS

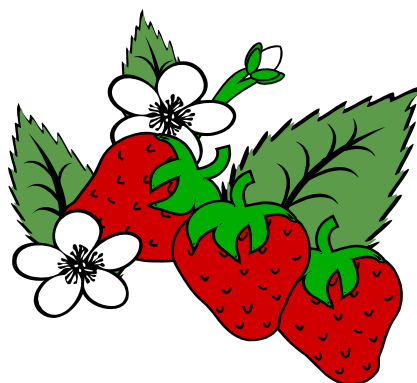


Vegetable seeds from the Skagit Valley are marketed all over the world. The need for isolation distances to prevent contamination from cross-pollination keeps the vegetable seed acreage below 5,000 acres in the Valley. Skagit-based seed companies contract some of their acreage with Snohomish, Island, Whatcom, and Clallam county growers. To protect these areas specifically for vegetable seed production, area seed companies and growers worked diligently with the Washington Department of Agriculture to establish a Brassica Seed Production District. For more information on the Western Washington Brassica Seed Production District go to <http://agr.wa.gov/LawsRules/Rulemaking/PP/BrassicaSeedCrops051507.htm>

There are eight vegetable seed companies in Skagit county: Ag alternatives, Alf Christianson, D&D, Schafer, Seminis, Skagit Seed Services, Sorensen, and Syngenta. Local grass seed contractors are D&D Farms and Sorensen Seed Company.

STRAWBERRIES

The main varieties are 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 on the decline due, in part, to national and global competition. At least one grower is moving to capture more of the fresh market by producing ever-bearing strawberries and using innovative technologies to increase the length of the season.



WINE GRAPES

The marine climate in the Skagit Valley 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. Due to the success of the existing wineries in Skagit County this industry is expected to increase 10-20% a year for the next 5 years.

DAIRY

Skagit County dairies produced almost \$14 million more dollars in milk income in 2007 over 2006. However, 2006 was one of the worst years in the last 25 years for prices paid to dairies for their milk. Dairy producers will long remember 2007 as a year of high prices. Unfortunately, high prices for the three big "F's" -- feed (alfalfa, corn, etc.), fertilizer, and fuel, took much of the increased record milk prices, seven months with over \$20 per hundred pounds of milk.

Even with record milk prices coming the last seven months of the year, eight dairies quit business before that period. It is interesting to note that the average milk income per farm for the 37 dairies that started the year in January 2007 was \$86,097, while the average milk income per farm for the 29 dairies in July 2007 was \$183,749 -- almost \$100,000 more per farm! The difference was in the uniform milk price with January yielding \$13.63/cwt, compared to July's price at \$21.98/cwt.

Sad to note, since 2003, Skagit County's total milk supply has decreased by almost 90,000 pounds on an annual basis. This loss is equivalent to the production of about 1500 dairy cows. Not only is there a loss in the milk supply, but the loss of almost 70 tons of the natural fertilizer so essential for soil health and nutrient needs by a wide variety of crops raised in the "Magic Skagit".

2007 Milk Production data for Skagit County

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
2007	37	29	279,077,546	18.67	\$52,103,778	\$1,693,433
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
2004	50	46	353,067,600	14.82	\$52,324,618	\$1,137,492
2003	52	50	369,757,449	11.32	\$41,856,543	\$837,131

2007 Monthly Data

Month	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	Milk Income/dairy
January	23,371,959	13.63	\$3,185,598.01	37	\$86,097.24
February	21,441,846	13.81	\$2,961,118.93	36	\$82,253.30
March	24,216,331	14.84	\$3,593,703.52	36	\$99,825.10
April	23,298,544	16.24	\$3,783,683.55	35	\$108,105.24
May	24,137,883	17.87	\$4,313,439.69	31	\$139,143.22
June	23,280,907	20.19	\$4,700,415.12	30	\$156,680.50
July	24,243,494	21.98	\$5,328,719.98	29	\$183,748.96
August	23,768,251	21.84	\$5,190,986.02	29	\$178,999.52
September	22,579,414	21.65	\$4,888,443.13	29	\$168,567.00
October	23,145,763	20.91	\$4,839,779.04	29	\$166,888.93
November	22,153,203	20.82	\$4,612,296.86	29	\$159,044.72
December	23,439,951	20.30	\$4,758,310.05	29	\$164,079.66
TOTALS	279,077,546		\$52,156,493.92		\$1,693,433.41

Census of Agriculture Dairy Cattle & Calves Inventory

Year	Number of Farms (10 cows or more)	Number of Cows
2002	74	17,021
1997	93	20,612
1992	123	21,345
1987	131	19,211
1982	166	19,366
1978	153	16,129



SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY *

<i>CROP</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1978</i>	<i>1968</i>
Apples ⁽¹⁾	200	300	103	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	1100	800	xxx	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	0	0	468	890	220
Cucumbers (processing)	3,000	3,000	1,900	1,094	1,070
Field Crops ⁽²⁾	33,000	28,355	33,050	25,000	2,800
Grass Seed	625	375	xxx	xxx	xxx
Misc. Crops ⁽³⁾	3,500	3,847	665	975	562
Peas (processing)	6500	4,196	14,880	15,898	32,289
Potatoes	13,250	12,500	7,250	1,520	537
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	420	524	150
Raspberries	1,300	1,400	xxx	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	500	550	615	550	1,443
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	616	1,098	5,521
Vegetable Seed ⁽⁴⁾	2501.8	1,204	3,375	4,891	1,800

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, 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).*

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	15-20 tons
Raspberries	3.5-4.5 tons
Ryegrass seed	1500 lbs

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES: *
Dollar Value to Producer

<i>Crop</i>	<i>2007</i>	<i>2002</i>	<i>1990</i>	<i>1978</i>	<i>1968</i>
Apples ⁽¹⁾	950,000	1,260,000	592,250	xxx	xxx
Blueberries	10,000,000	3,104,573	xxx	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	0	0	493,794	1,181,157	78,672
Cucumbers (processing)	5,000,000	5,555,765	4,944,034	1,920,930	553,725
Dairy (milk sold)	52,103,778	42,369,907	53,122,168	23,885,268	8,400,250
Eggs and Fryers ⁽²⁾	15,000,000	13,278,300	14,016,877	5,177,500	1,887,000
Field Crops ⁽³⁾	14,000,000	15,132,876	12,844,718	2,575,000	3,000,000
Grass Seed	656,250	111,400	xxx	xxx	xxx
Livestock	9,000,000	8,290,500	4,400,000	5,493,283	2,200,000
Misc.Crops ⁽⁴⁾	20,000,000	22,308,095	2,046,600	176,000	319,500
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	65,000,000	60,075,000	24,000,000	4,900,000	1,500,000
Peas (processing)	3,250,000	1,491,944	5,640,903	7,117,743	6,139,843
Potatoes	65,000,000	72,037,500	33,746,600	2,032,800	399,166
Raspberries/ Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	1,179,450	1,789,058	225,600
Raspberries	5,509,028	4,640,520	xxx	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	4,225,000	2,959,063	2,496,280	1,233,314	2,371,746
Sweet Corn (processing)	0	0	187,828	1,187,462	1,047,585
Vegetable Seed ⁽⁵⁾	3,752,700	2,294,274	3,144,352	1,828,968	500,000
TOTALS	273,446,756	254,909,717	165,141,854	63,181,133	29,017,717

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

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Total Clallam	Total Cowlitz	Total Island	Total Jeffer	Total Lewis	Total Snohomish	Total Whatcom	Total Western Washington
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
*2007	529.8	399.5	1492.5	80	2501.8	NA		73.2			272	26	2873
*2006	519	352.8	1680	69	2620.8			60.15			458		3138.95
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
1997	1,048	640	2,476	458	4,622	448	55	159		90	395	-	5,769
1996	962	296	2,049	727	4,034	-	-	204		-	511	-	4,749
1995	592	388	2,433	590	4,005	-	-	209		-	646	-	4,860
1994	764	276	2,180	467	3,687	59	-	180		-	844	-	4,770
1993	441	324	3,149	427	4,341	56	-	315		-	1,071	-	5,783

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

Vegetable Seed Production in Western Washington Farmgate Value (dollars)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Clallam	Cowlitz	Island	Jefferson	Lewis	Snohomish	Whatcom	Total Western Washington
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
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
1996	1,414,137	666,209	2,568,972	723,933	5,373,251	-	-	468,054	-	-	739,762	-	6,581,067
1995	1,031,821	966,306	2,449,053	564,411	5,011,591	-	-	379,938	-	-	793,989	-	6,185,518
1994	1,528,558	899,259	2,208,128	398,986	5,034,931	226,100	-	380,800	-	-	1,169,235	-	6,811,067
1993	792,147	676,415	2,322,818	408,374	4,199,754	141,500	-	487,000	-	-	1,134,000	-	5,962,254

COMMERCIAL CROPS GROWN IN SKAGIT COUNTY

Fruit

Blackberry
Blueberry
Boysenberry*
Currant*
Lingonberry*
Loganberry*
Marionberry*
Raspberry
Strawberry
Tayberry*
Water Mellon*
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
Tea*

*Less than ten acres

Nursery & Greenhouse Crops, Mushrooms, and Sod Grown for Sale - Skagit County*

ITEM	2007	1997	1992
Nursery & greenhouse crops			
No. of farms	129	116	111
Sales (dollars)	60,075,000	42,390,000	29,980,000
Nursery, floriculture, vegetable & flower seed crops, sod, etc. grown in the open, irrigated:			
No. of farms	89	74	75
Sales	NA	NA	NA
Floriculture crops— Bedding, foliage, potted flowering plants, & cut flowers, total			
No. of farms	63	39	38
Sales	NA	25,810,000	18,785,000
Bedding/Garden plants			
No. of farms	38	21	26
Sales	NA	23,863,000	11,302,000
Cut flower & cut florist greens			
No. of farms	21	15	13
Sales	NA	1,827,000	7,446,000
Bulbs, corms, rhizomes, or tubers (dry)			
No. of farms	19	12	13
Sales	NA	NA	4,297,000
Nursery crops			
No. of farms	58	24	33
Sales	NA	3,359,000	3,663,000

*Source: Census of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce
NA=not available

Annual Index of Prices Received and Paid by Farmers, U.S.**

(Ratio of index of prices received by farmers to index of prices paid for commodities, services, interest, taxes, and wage rates).

1995	94
1996	98
1997	90
1998	89
1999	83
2000	81
2001	82
2002	79
2003	83
2004	85

**Source: WA Agricultural Statistics 2004.

SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURE STATISTICS

according to

Census of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce*

ITEM	2002	1997	1992
Market value of ag products sold (dollars)	217,384,000	171,690,000	138,471,000
Average per farm	249,294	240,463	183,648
Crops (including greenhouse & nursery)	152,452,000	90,392,000	63,849,000
Livestock, poultry, and their products	64,932,000	81,299,000	74,621,000
Estimated Market Value of Land & Buildings In Dollars for Skagit County Farms			
Per Farm	613,134	609,685	435,274
Per Acre	5,113	4,645	3,618
Total farm production expenses (dollars)	168,073,000	129,701,000	121,418,000
Average per farm	191,864	181,654	160,818
Net cash return from ag sales for the farm unit (dollars)	N/A	40,882,000	18,134,000
Average per farm		57,257	24,019
Net cash farms income of operations**	59,651,000 68,095		
No. of farms with net gains	488	308	359
No. of farms with net losses	388	436	396
No. of farms by size (acres)			
1-9	164	132	139
10-49	357	252	271
50-179	222	204	218
180-499	86	89	86
500-999	21	22	24
1,000+	22	17	16
Number of Farms by Value of Sales, Skagit County			
Less than \$2,500	345	218	226
\$2,500 - \$4,999	69	87	110
\$5,000 - \$24,999	177	163	170
\$25,000 - \$99,999	97	76	81
Over \$100,000	184	170	176
Total cropland			
No. of farms	689	613	617
Acres	76,178	73,028	72,576
Harvested cropland			
No. of farms	543	511	513
Acres	62,074	61,257	57,946
Irrigated Land			
No. of farms	226	165	149
Acres	17,658	9,821	8,415
Hired farm labor			
Workers	9,048	6,140	7,633
Payroll (\$)	53,921,000	27,309,000	30,071,000
Cropland idle or used for cover crops on soil im- provement, but not harvested and not pastured or grazed (acres)	4,244	N/A	N/A

* 2002 Census of Ag data are not comparable to Census of Ag data from prior years. For the first time in 2002 the data was adjusted to account for farmers missed or misclassified during the census in prior years. This caused an apparent increase in the number of farms, farmers and land in farms in the 2002 Census. For definitions and explanations of data gathering, go to www.nass.usda.gov/census.

** New category for 2002.

GROSS FARM INCOME IN SKAGIT COUNTY

SOURCE: WSU/SKAGIT COUNTY EXTENSION
(before any expense is paid)

2007	\$273,446,756	1989	\$149,714,999
2006	\$254,728,875	1988	\$120,560,757
2003	\$244,974,185	1987	\$110,511,377
2002	\$254,909,717	1886	\$104,804,777
2001	\$261,312,281	1985	\$104,920,240
2000	\$227,351,000	1984	\$ 97,272,703
1999	\$242,992,859	1983	\$ 95,396,166
1998	\$235,308,595	1982	\$ 91,862,479
1997	\$216,329,869	1981	\$ 76,834,618
1996	\$181,469,151	1980	\$ 81,839,881
1995	\$172,067,932	1979	\$ 79,467,182
1994	\$171,024,023	1978	\$ 63,181,133
1993	\$181,276,517	1977	\$ 56,936,539
1992	\$158,125,507	1974	\$ 51,644,810
1991	\$157,006,833	1968	\$ 29,017,717
1990	\$165,141,854	1956	\$ 12,023,393

AGRICULTURAL LAND USE TRENDS, SKAGIT COUNTY *

Year	Number Farms	Land in Farms (Acres)	Avg. Size (Acres)	Total ** Cropland (Acres)	Harvested Cropland (Acres)	% of County in Farms
2002	872***	113,821***	131	76,178***	62,074***	10.3
1997	714	93,495	131	73,028	61,257	8.4
1992	754	92,074	122	72,576	57,946	8.3
1987	806	95,357	118	73,548	57,226	8.6
1982	897	109,934	112	86,623	70,687	9.9
1978	779	105,721	136	81,872	67,251	9.5
1974	850	108,972	128	n/a	67,029	9.8
1960	1,700	141,770	81	n/a	n/a	12.2
1940	3,242	152,758	47	n/a	n/a	13.8
1920	2,401	136,350	57	n/a	n/a	12.3
1900	889	87,151	98	n/a	n/a	7.8

*Source: Census of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce

The data shown represents totals for places or establishments which qualify as farms for U.S. Department of Commerce census purposes, which defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products are sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year.

** Total land area in Skagit County is approximately 1,110,100 acres.

*** 2002 Census of Ag data are not comparable to Census of Ag data from prior years. For the first time in 2002 the data was adjusted to account for farmers missed or misclassified during the census in prior years. This caused an apparent increase in the number of farms, farmers and land in farms in the 2002 Census. For definitions and explanations of data gathering, go to www.nass.usda.gov/census.

Type of Organization*, Skagit County								
Individual or Family Proprietorship			Partnership		Corporation			
					Family Held		Other than Family Held	
	No. of Farms	No. of Acres	No. of Farms	No. of Acres	No. of Farms	No. of Acres	No. of Farms	No. of Acres
2002	706	48,345	64	26,544	79	33,488	11	3,236
1997	570	46,701	66	14,720	63	28,703	9	(D)**
1992	622	54,117	69	10,817	57	26,841	1	(D)**
1987	806	95,357	70	9,994	43	22,590	3	542
1982	897	109,834	78	N/A	40	21,847	5	521
1978	664	70,899	81	19,733	28	12,937	5	(D)**

*Source: Census of Agriculture, U.S. Dept. of Commerce

**Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms



FARM OPERATORS BY PRINCIPLE OCCUPATION *
(FOR SKAGIT COUNTY)

<i>Year</i>	<i>Farming</i>	<i>Other</i>
2002	531**	341**
1997	376	338
1992	393	361
1987	391	415
1982	437	460
1978	398	381
1974	458	368



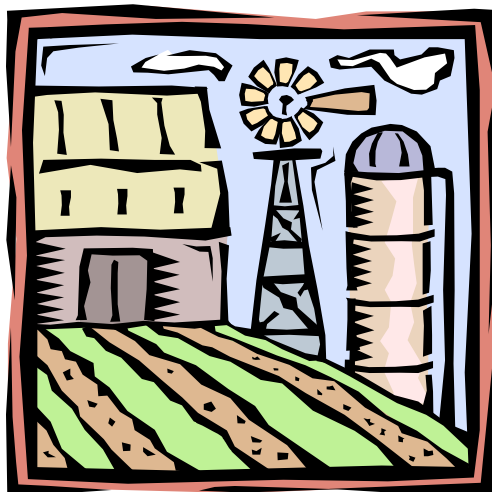
	Average Age of Operator in Years *	Operator by Sex (Number of Farms)*	
		Male	Female
2002	56.3	714	158
1997	54.6	615	99
1992	52.6	658	96
1987	50.6	739	67
1982	49.7	832	65
1978	48.8	756	23
1974	51.8	n/a	n/a

* Source: Census of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Commerce

Organizations, Businesses and Agencies Serving Skagit County Agriculture

Ag Alternative
Agrilink Foods
Alf Christianson Seed Company
Barnett Implement Company
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 Ag Business Center
NW Bulb Growers Assn.
NW Food Processors Assn.
Pea Industry Advisory Committee
Puget Sound Seed Growers Assn.
Rijk Zwaan Seed
Sakuma Bros.
SBF Processing
Schafer Agriculture Services
Seminis Vegetable Seeds
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
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 Skagit County Extension



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Draper Valley Farms, Inc.
Dynes Farms
Economic Development Association of Skagit County
Farm Service Agency
Hedlin Farms
Hughes Farms
Day Creek Poultry Farms
Merritt's Apples
Mike and Jean's Berry Farm
Mother Flight Farm
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration
Norm Nelson, Inc.
North Fork Farms
Ralph's Greenhouse
Sakuma Bros. Farm
Schafer Ag Services, LLC
Seminis Vegetable Seed Co.
Skagit Farmers Supply
Skagit Seed Services
Skagit Valley Herald
Sorensen Seed Co.
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Twin City Foods
US Department of Commerce
US Department of Labor
Valley Pride Sales
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 Farm Crops Association
Wilbur Ellis Company
WSU Northwestern Research and Extension Center at Mount Vernon
Ned Zaugg, WSU Skagit County Extension

6/21/08
