

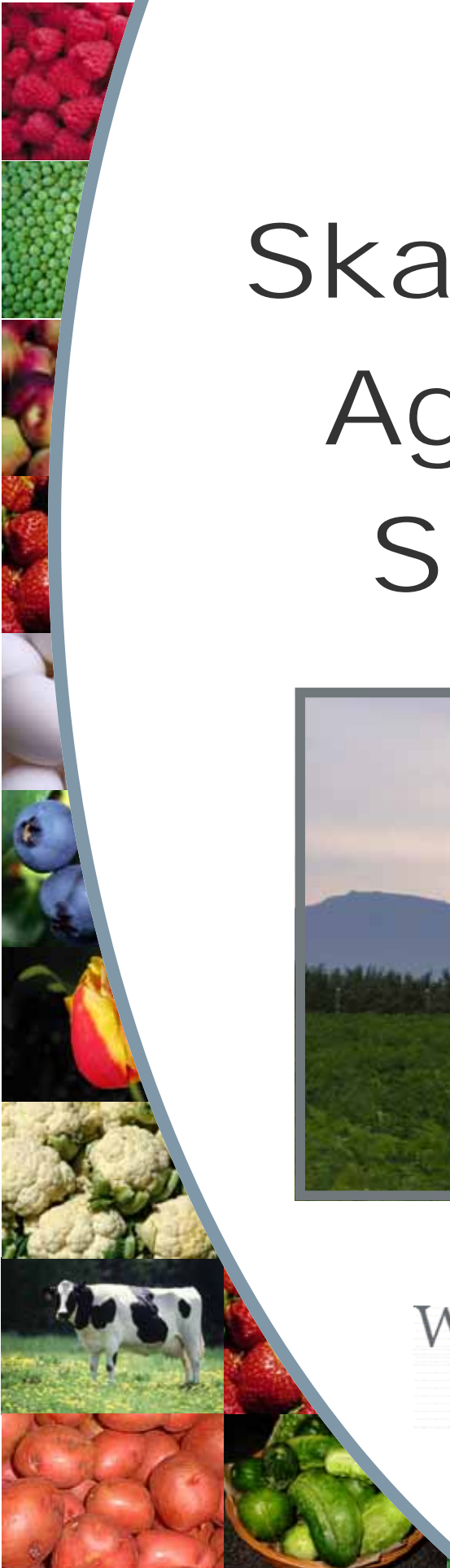
# 2008 Skagit County Agriculture Statistics



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY



SKAGIT COUNTY EXTENSION



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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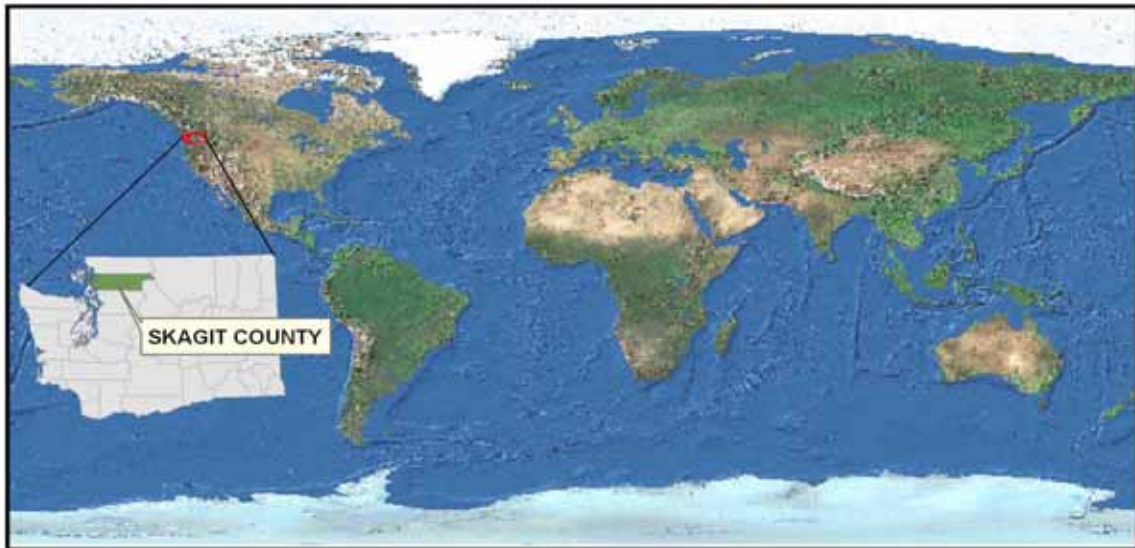
*HELPING YOU PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK*

## Table of Contents

Geography.....	5
Population.....	5
Climate.....	6
Rainfall & Snowfall .....	6
Temperature.....	6
2008 Weather Picture.....	7
2008 Temperature Chart .....	7
Frost Free Days.....	8
Fall Freeze Probabilities.....	8
Spring Freeze Probabilities.....	8
Irrigation.....	9
Soils.....	9
Agriculture: Skagit Facts.....	9
Agricultural Labor .....	11
Minimum Wage.....	11
Crops	
• Apples.....	12
• Blueberries.....	12
• Bulb Crops.....	13
• Cauliflower & Broccoli.....	13
• Chicken & Eggs.....	13
• Cucumbers.....	14
• Peas.....	14
• Potatoes .....	14
• Raspberries.....	14
• Seed Crops .....	15
• Strawberries.....	15
Dairy .....	16
Dairy Cattle and Calves Inventory.....	16
Dairy Producer Data .....	17
Crop Acreage Summary.....	18
Typical Yield (per acre) .....	18
Past Statistical Summaries: Dollar Value to Grower .....	19
Vegetable Seed Production in western Washington: Acres Harvested.....	20
Vegetable Seed Production in western Washington: Farmgate Value .....	21
Commercial Crops Grown in Skagit County .....	22
2007 U.S. Census of Agriculture Statistics.....	23 & 24
Organizations, Businesses and Agencies Serving Skagit County Agriculture .....	25
Acknowledgments.....	26

## 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	118,000

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.

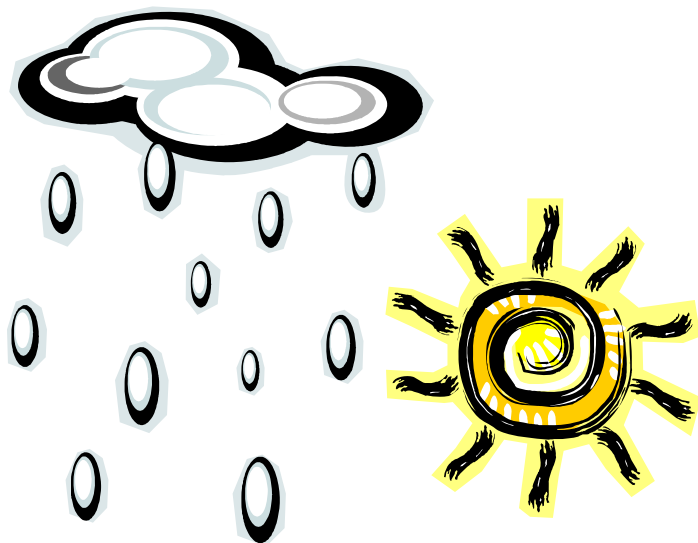
Approximately 20% of the rainfall in Mount Vernon occurs June through September. The sun shines 65% of the time in summer, and 25% of the time in winter.

## TEMPERATURE:

The highest temperature ever on record at the WSU 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).

## 2008 WEATHER PICTURE

2008 began with typical rains early on and kept growers out of their fields until late into the spring. Many fields went unplanted in 2008 due to the wet weather and reduced irrigation was applied over the summer of 2008 due to rare extreme summer rains in August. Growing degree days for Skagit County were the lowest we have seen for many years. The cool wet weather stressed plants, and rains that took place in the fall made harvest difficult, especially the month of November that received 5.55 inches of rain. Precipitation was below 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 and late season potato producers.



## 2008 Skagit County Weather As recorded at WSU NWREC

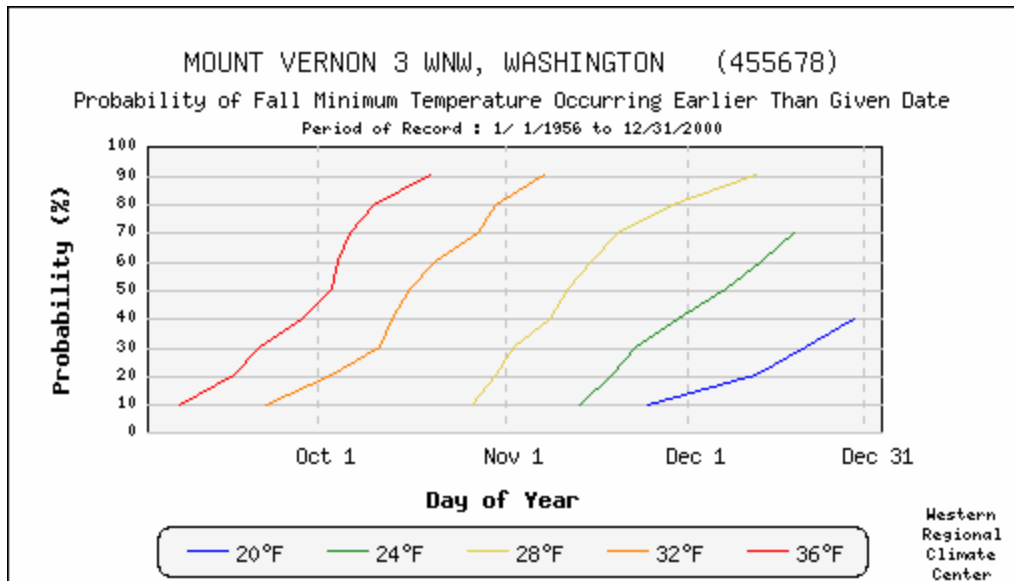
Month	High	Low	Monthly Average	Precipitation
January	51.0	19.3	36.7	2.74
February	56.9	26	40.0	2.92
March	58.3	26.8	40.8	4.36
April	69.9	25.4	45.4	2.40
May	86.2	35.3	53.7	2.09
June	82.7	44.1	55.6	2.25
July	81.1	43.6	59.7	0.64
August	82.1	46.5	61.9	2.23
September	74.1	40.9	51.8	0.50
October	69.7	31.2	50.0	1.37
November	63.7	31.2	47.8	5.55
December	57.3	9.5	35.9	3.18
				Year Total - 30.23

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

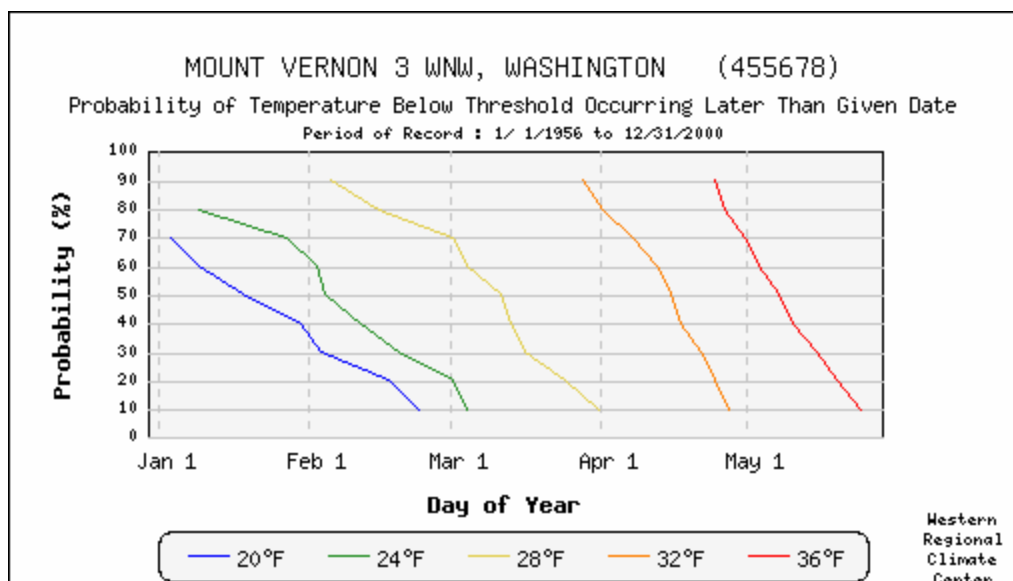
## FROST FREE DAYS:

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



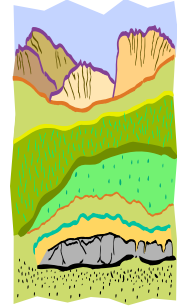


## IRRIGATION

In June, July, and August, irrigation is used on approximately 10,000 acres of cropland in 2008, 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.

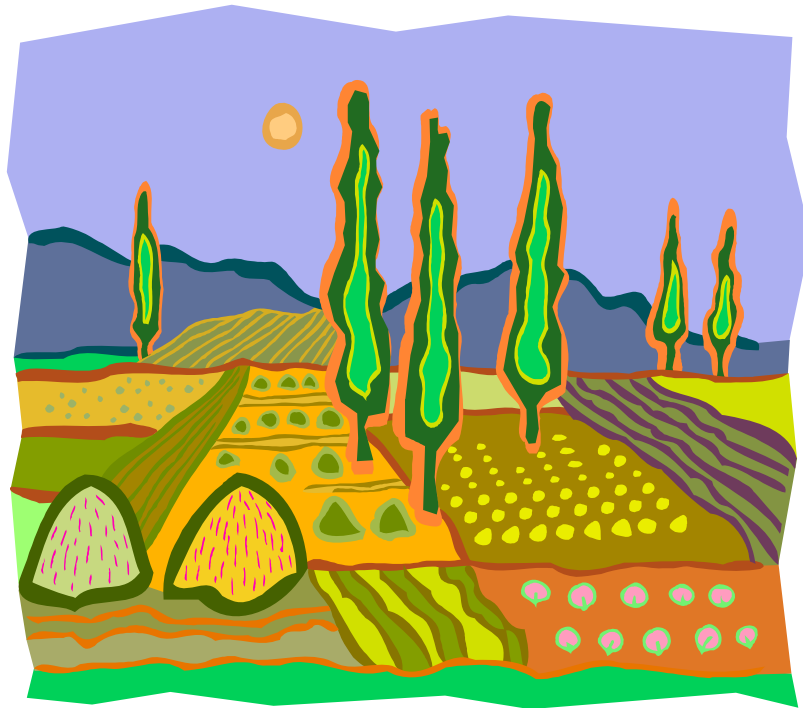
Skagit grape growers have planted 110 acres over the past 5 years. This industry is expected to increase exponentially in the future.

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. 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, 9,900 in 2007 and approximately 20,000 visitors in 2008.

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 2008 there were 4,825 acres in certified organic production under 41 certified organic farms in Skagit County. There is also 495 acres in transition into the certified organic program in Skagit County. For the 2008 growing season organic production in Skagit County is valued at \$10,096,494 making it the sixth highest in Washington State and the highest in Western Washington.

(Source: [http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/WA\\_CertAcres\\_08.pdf](http://csanr.wsu.edu/Organic/WA_CertAcres_08.pdf))



## 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
January 1, 2008	8.07
January 1, 2009	8.55

## CROPS

The processing industry revolves around green peas. The crop is fully mechanized from planting through processing. Green pea acreage, is now down to about 6000 acres due of the closure of National Frozen Foods in 2000. 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 2008 Skagit crop showed below average yields and average quality with a low pricing structure.



Our coastal climate allows us to grow varieties of 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.

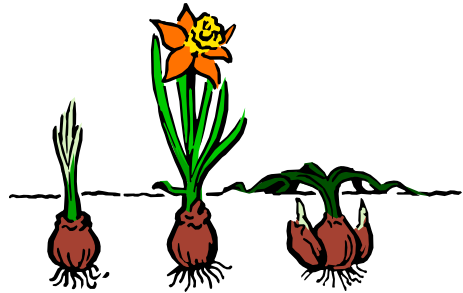
## BLUEBERRIES

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. 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 2008 prices finally met up with demand, high inventories, and overproduction added up to a mediocre year for growers with even lower prices expected for 2009.

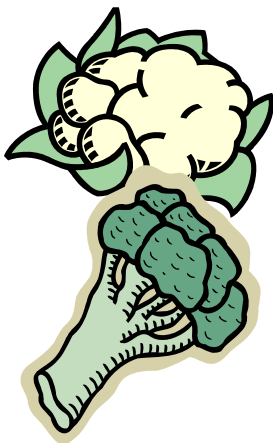


## BULB CROPS

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 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 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

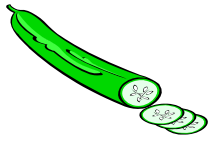
All cauliflower and broccoli are grown for fresh market. Head quality is exceptionally high in this region. Approximately 60% to 80% of the broccoli and cauliflower grown in Skagit is consumed in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Skagit farmers grew about 1,000 acres of cauliflower and broccoli this year. Farmers in the Skagit Valley once again reduced acreages for Cauliflower and Broccoli for the 2008 season due to low commodity prices in the 2007 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 2008 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. In 2008 Draper Valley Farms was sold to Booth Creek who intends to run the company in the same manner as the previous owners.



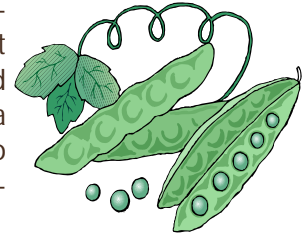


## CUCUMBERS

Dean Foods closed down its production facility in the Northwest in 2008. Their crop is now being supplied from Mexico and India. The lone pickle cucumber processor in Skagit County is Pleasant Valley Farms in La Conner, WA. Pleasant Valley contracts with area growers to produce approximately 900 acres in Skagit County. This crop is vital to the rotational base, so be sure to consume plenty of Pleasant Valley products this year.

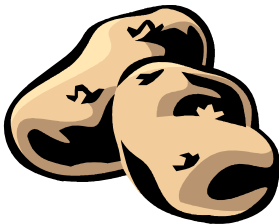
## PEAS

Commercial Pea production in Skagit County is produced by local growers under contract to Twin City Foods in Stanwood for freezing. Skagit County green peas are among the finest in the world for quality and yields. Having only one pea processor in the area is undesirable for area growers but pricing for the 2008 season was the highest on record due to inflated input costs for farmers to install the crop. Peas are a great rotational crop for Skagit County because of their nitrogen fixing abilities.



## 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, however due to a study of all the growers in Skagit and Northern Snohomish Counties, WSU Skagit County Extension was able to determine that Silver Scurf and Flea Beetle are now more of a problem for area growers. Researchers at WSU NWREC are now working on these issues and growers are using integrated pest management practices to minimize their losses. Because of the need for a three-year rotation, there is limited ground available for the 12,000 acres of potatoes currently grown in Skagit County. Overall production was down for 2008 due to potato farmers not being able to get on their fields due to wet weather. Reduced acreage sent prices higher for 2008.



## 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 varieties in Skagit County 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.

Prices for the 2008 raspberry crop were very good due to poor production in the entire world. In Skagit County yields were also reduced for the 2008 season to about 20% of normal production. Production is expected to increase in the 2009 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 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.

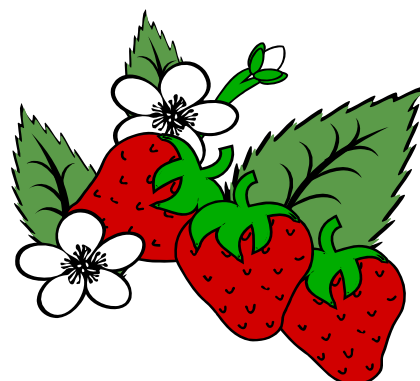


On the first Monday in March and again in June the seed companies meet at WSU NWREC for the annual pinning days that determine which crop will be planted and where. It is this spirit of cooperation that keeps the Skagit County Seed Industry growing in Skagit County.

There are eight vegetable seed companies in Skagit county: Ag alternatives/Vikima, Alf Christianson, D&D, Rijk Zwaan, 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 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 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 everbearing 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

Only 27 Commercial dairies remained in Skagit County, down from 52 in the last 5 years. Although milk prices were at an all time highs, the escalated costs for feed, fuel and fertilizer were even higher. This scenario provided much needed cash flow after the disastrous year of 2006 and early 2007. However, the high costs created unmanageable commodity volume budgeting.

Major reduction in total milk production for the County occurred in the last quarter when a large dairy and two others ceased operations. thus reducing milk revenue into the County by about \$750,000 per month causing a ripple effect on employee families and supporting businesses. Twenty-nine dairies started the year each grossing an average of \$159,000 per farm per month. However, by December, the remaining 27 dairies were only averaging about \$100,000 gross income per farm, an almost \$60,000 cut in pay or 38% less. Unfortunately, the high costs remained, thus cancelling out the anticipated gains that might have been realized.

The loss of dairies has a negative rippling effect throughout the agricultural community as well as in the general County economy. As the local organic food movement escalates, the need and demand for organic fertilizer from the dairies becomes a critical piece to their success. However, almost 100 tons of the natural fertilizer so essential for soil health and nutrient needs by a wide variety of crops raised in the "Magic Skagit" has been lost in the last 5 years.

At a time when Skagit County needs additional revenue, the loss of almost \$6,000,000 in one year is a huge hit —alarming is the fact that at 2009 prices, the same production will yield \$11 million less in 2009. Even more devastating, at current economic levels, half of the current dairies might not survive until the end of 2009!

### Census of Agriculture Dairy Cattle & Calves Inventory

Year	Number of Farms (10 cows or more)	Number of Cows
2007	52	13,763
2002	74	17,021
1997	93	20,612
1992	123	21,345
1987	131	19,211
1982	166	19,366
1978	153	16,129





## 2008 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
2008	29	27	272,623,494	16.87	\$46,203,095	\$1,587,164
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

Month	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	Milk Income/dairy
January	23,842,686	19.39	\$4,623,096.82	29	\$159,417.13
February	22,704,377	17.47	\$3,966,454.66	29	\$136,774.30
March	24,322,406	15.94	\$3,876,991.52	30	\$129,233.05
April	23,833,508	16.95	\$4,039,779.61	30	\$134,659.32
May	24,719,437	16.83	\$4,160,281.25	30	\$138,676.04
June	23,851,646	18.03	\$4,300,451.77	30	\$143,348.39
July	24,160,823	18.94	\$4,576,059.88	30	\$152,535.33
August	23,369,276	18.03	\$4,213,480.46	30	\$140,449.35
September	20,746,759	17.07	\$3,541,471.76	28	\$126,481.13
October	20,625,911	15.49	\$3,194,953.61	28	\$114,105.49
November	19,738,288	15.29	\$3,017,984.24	27	\$111,777.19
December	20,708,377	13.00	\$2,692,089.01	27	\$99,707.00
<b>**TOTALS</b>	272,623,494		\$46,203,094.58	29 Ave	\$1,587,163.73

**\*\*Accumulated averages**

## SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY \*

CROP	2008	2007	1990	1978	1968
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	100	200	103	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	1,200	1,100	xxx	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	300	0	468	890	220
Cucumbers (processing)	900	3,000	1,900	1,094	1,070
Field Crops <sup>(2)</sup>	35,000	33,000	33,050	25,000	2,800
Grass Seed	650	625	xxx	xxx	xxx
Misc. Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000	3,500	665	975	562
Peas (processing)	6,000	6500	14,880	15,898	32,289
Potatoes	12,000	13,250	7,250	1,520	537
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	420	524	150
Raspberries	1,200	1,300	xxx	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	450	500	615	550	1,443
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	616	1,098	5,521
Vegetable Seed <sup>(4)</sup>	2,314	2,501.8	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, 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 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)

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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**

Crop	2008	2007	1990	1978	1968
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	225,000	950,000	592,250	xxx	xxx
Blueberries	8,000,000	10,000,000	xxx	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	600,000	0	493,794	1,181,157	78,672
Cucumbers (processing)	1,260,000	5,000,000	4,944,034	1,920,930	553,725
Dairy (milk sold)	46,203,095	52,103,778	53,122,168	23,885,268	8,400,250
Eggs and Fryers <sup>(2)</sup>	30,000,000	15,000,000	14,016,877	5,177,500	1,887,000
Field Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	30,000,000	14,000,000	12,844,718	2,575,000	3,000,000
Grass Seed	975,000	656,250	xxx	xxx	xxx
Livestock	10,000,000	9,000,000	4,400,000	5,493,283	2,200,000
Misc.Crops <sup>(4)</sup>	25,000,000	20,000,000	2,046,600	176,000	319,500
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	70,000,000	65,000,000	24,000,000	4,900,000	1,500,000
Peas (processing)	6,000,000	3,250,000	5,640,903	7,117,743	6,139,843
Potatoes	60,000,000	65,000,000	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	6,000,000	5,509,028	xxx	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	2,250,000	4,225,000	2,496,280	1,233,314	2,371,746
Sweet Corn (processing)	0	0	187,828	1,187,462	1,047,585
Vegetable Seed <sup>(5)</sup>	7,515,399	3,752,700	3,144,352	1,828,968	500,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>304,028,494</b>	<b>273,446,756</b>	<b>165,141,854</b>	<b>63,181,133</b>	<b>29,017,717</b>

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								
*2008	457	381	1456	20	2314	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	367	NA	2741
*2007	530	400	1493	80	2503	NA	NA	73	NA	NA	272	26	2874
*2006	519	352	1680	69	2620	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	458	NA	3138
2003	316	93	790	20	1,219	45	-	34	10	-	272	93	1,663
2002	313	95	770	26	1,204	71	-	105		110	234	102	1,826
2001	710	349	1,112	190	2,361	78	-	126		194	417	79	3,255
2000	763	410	2,412	215	3,800	100	-	256		146	661	112	5,075
1999	771	526	2,630	217	4,145	94	-	128		120	778	52	5,317
1998	537	859	1,824	355	3,575	68	-	125		71	527	48	4,414
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

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

VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON  
FARMGATE VALUE (DOLLARS)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Clallam	Cowlitz	Island	Jefferson	Lewis	Snohomish	Whatcom	Total Western Washington
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
2008	1,143,300	1,905,500	4,366,599	100,000	7,515,399	NA	NA	300,000	NA	NA	1,100,100	NA	8,915,499
2007	953,640	1,198,500	2,238,750	120,000	4,510,890	NA	NA	219,000	NA	NA	527,700	78,000	5,335,590
2006	519,000	352,800	1,680,000	39,000	2,620,800	-	-	180,450	-	-	458,000	120,300	3,379,550
2003	560,507	346,429	828,369	62,550	1,797,855	269,907	-	183,771	8,025	-	437,676	133,782	2,831,016
2002	630,897	492,849	1,152,622	17,906	2,294,274	250,682	-	290,534	-	129,969	588,275	204,560	3,758,294
2001	1,481,266	1,501,946	2,099,945	178,890	5,262,047	374,673	-	545,636	-	121,853	973,485	52,427	7,330,121
2000	1,192,711	2,036,666	3,345,547	606,589	7,181,513	319,102	-	847,693	-	193,710	1,773,375	265,203	10,580,596
1999	1,100,635	1,577,963	4,524,822	363,083	7,566,053	348,384	-	235,031	-	178,451	2,416,114	89,789	10,834,272
1998	881,875	1,441,628	1,665,009	560,290	4,548,802	278,554	-	205,377	-	78,193	639,661	55,268	5,805,855
1997	1,769,864	3,533,368	2,464,127	512,274	8,279,633	268,463	45,525	205,572	-	73,120	490,712	-	9,363,025
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

# 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

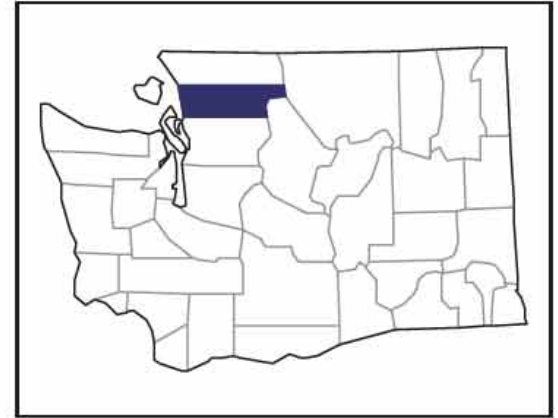
Bamboo  
Christmas trees  
Dill\*  
Fennel\*  
Gourds\*  
Hybrid poplar  
Tea\*

\*Less than ten acres

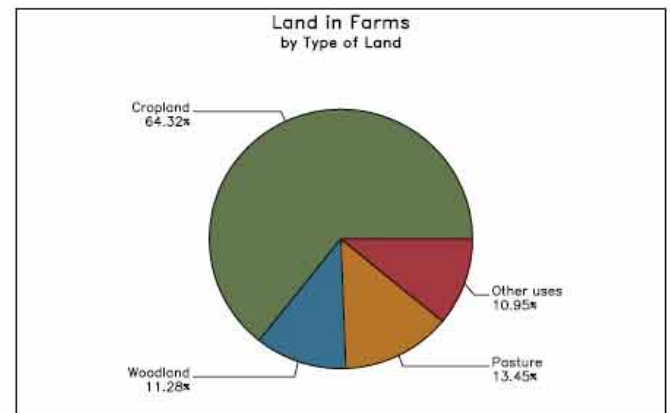
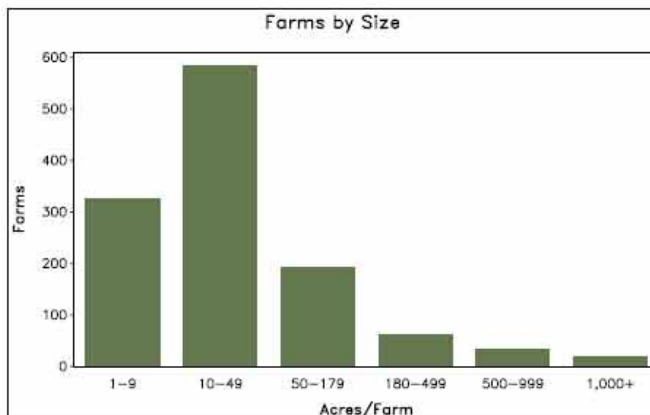
# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## County Profile

### Skagit, Washington



	2007	2002	% change
<b>Number of Farms</b>	1,215	872	+ 39
<b>Land in Farms</b>	108,541 acres	113,821 acres	- 5
<b>Average Size of Farm</b>	89 acres	131 acres	- 32
<b>Market Value of Production</b>	\$256,248,000	\$217,384,000	+ 18
Crop Sales \$174,169,000 (68 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$82,079,000 (32 percent)			
<b>Average Per Farm</b>	\$210,904	\$249,294	- 15
<b>Government Payments</b>	\$630,000	\$1,835,000	- 66
<b>Average Per Farm</b>	\$5,835	\$14,333	- 59





# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

## County Profile

### Skagit, Washington

Ranked items among the 39 state counties and 3,079 U.S. counties, 2007

Item	Quantity	State Rank	Universe <sup>1</sup>	U.S. Rank	Universe <sup>1</sup>
<b>MARKET VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS SOLD (\$1,000)</b>					
Total value of agricultural products sold	256,248	8	39	210	3,076
Value of crops including nursery and greenhouse	174,169	11	39	110	3,072
Value of livestock, poultry, and their products	82,079	7	39	492	3,069
<b>VALUE OF SALES BY COMMODITY GROUP (\$1,000)</b>					
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, and dry peas	4,204	15	36	1,547	2,933
Tobacco	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	437
Cotton and cottonseed	(-)	(-)	(-)	(-)	626
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, and sweet potatoes	75,494	5	37	34	2,796
Fruits, tree nuts, and berries	17,222	12	39	106	2,659
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod	74,286	1	38	44	2,703
Cut Christmas trees and short rotation woody crops	199	13	33	240	1,710
Other crops and hay	2,763	14	39	618	3,054
Poultry and eggs	12,172	6	39	522	3,020
Cattle and calves	10,969	10	39	1,117	3,054
Milk and other dairy products from cows	47,173	4	34	157	2,493
Hogs and pigs	69	18	37	1,492	2,922
Sheep, goats, and their products	160	18	39	767	2,998
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, and donkeys	603	16	39	396	3,024
Aquaculture	10,522	6	34	31	1,498
Other animals and other animal products	410	12	39	436	2,875
<b>TOP LIVESTOCK INVENTORY ITEMS (number)</b>					
Layers	324,755	7	39	213	3,024
Pullets for laying flock replacement	45,836	6	37	341	2,627
Cattle and calves	36,544	10	39	867	3,060
Colonies of bees	5,079	4	38	138	2,640
Broilers and other meat-type chickens	2,300	8	36	753	2,476
<b>TOP CROP ITEMS (acres)</b>					
Vegetables harvested, all	19,456	6	37	49	2,794
Forage-land used for all hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop	18,594	14	39	1,109	3,060
Potatoes	10,353	5	37	27	2,124
Corn for silage	7,395	4	25	199	2,263
Peas, green (excluding southern)	5,203	2	36	7	882

### Other County Highlights

Economic Characteristics	Quantity	Operator Characteristics	Quantity
Farms by value of sales		Principal operators by primary occupation:	
Less than \$1,000	418	Farming	479
\$1,000 to \$2,499	199	Other	736
\$2,500 to \$4,999	143	Principal operators by sex:	
\$5,000 to \$9,999	133	Male	940
\$10,000 to \$19,999	83	Female	275
\$20,000 to \$24,999	22	Average age of principal operator (years)	56.4
\$25,000 to \$39,999	19	All operators <sup>2</sup> by race:	
\$40,000 to \$49,999	19	American Indian or Alaska Native	20
\$50,000 to \$99,999	48	Asian	29
\$100,000 to \$249,999	33	Black or African American	(-)
\$250,000 to \$499,999	27	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	6
\$500,000 or more	71	White	1,853
Total farm production expenses (\$1,000)	215,218	More than one race	5
Average per farm (\$)	177,134	All operators <sup>2</sup> of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino Origin	35
Net cash farm income of operation (\$1,000)	46,977		
Average per farm (\$)	38,664		

(D) Cannot be disclosed. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. See "Census of Agriculture, Volume 1, Geographic Area Series" for complete footnotes.

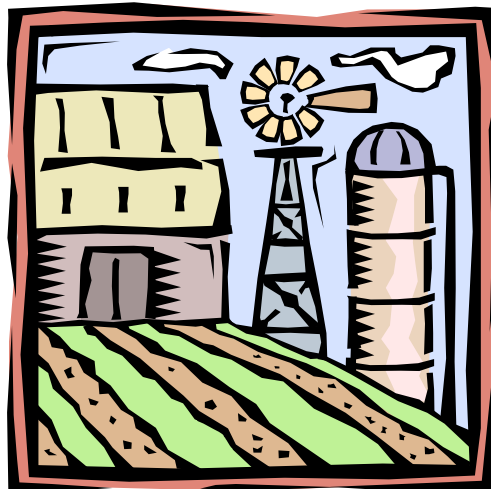
<sup>1</sup> Universe is number of counties in state or U.S. with item.

<sup>2</sup> Data were collected for a maximum of three operators per farm.



## *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  
Semini's 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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*We wish to express our appreciation to the following for their assistance  
in the gathering of data for this report:*

AgriLink Foods  
Alf Christianson Seed Company  
Anderson Blueberry Farm  
Bio HumaNetics, Inc.  
Capital Press  
Cedardale Orchard  
Dai-Zen Egg Farm  
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