

# 2010 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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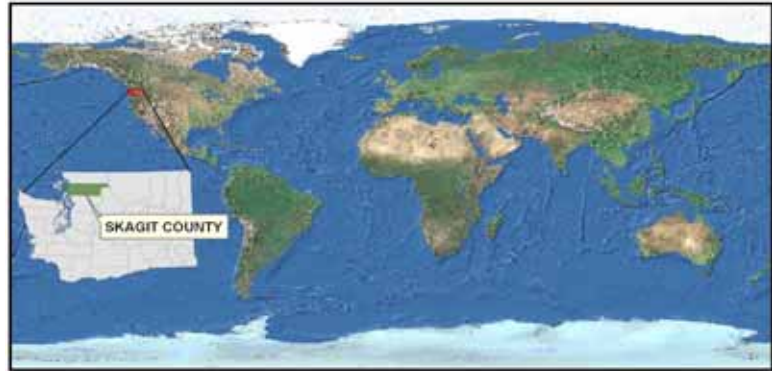
*HELPING YOU PUT KNOWLEDGE TO WORK*

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## 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 farmland before emptying into Puget Sound.



## POPULATION

1930	1950	1970	1980	1990	2000	2007	2010
35,142	43,273	52,381	64,138	79,555	102,300	119,534	116,901

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).

## 2010 WEATHER PICTURE

The winter of 2009/2010 had an adverse impact on the perennial cropping systems with temperatures dropping down to 12 degrees on Dec 9th of 2009. This cold weather killed some cabbage seed crops and made for limited harvesting of blackberries in 2010. 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 seemed just enough to keep them out of their fields. On April 21st, over three quarters of an inch of rain was recorded at WSU NWREC. This had many farmers thinking that the major spring rain events were complete; unfortunately, this was not the case. 2010 will go down in the record books as one of the poorest springs on record; perhaps 2011 will be considered the worst. However in 2010, the crops that were planted in April were soon to be ruined by over 5 inches of rain in May and June. Annual rainfall of 27.83 inches recorded at WSU NWREC. Irrigation was applied at lower levels over the summer of 2010 due to summer rain. Growing degree days for Skagit County were very low, which is interesting because 2009 had some of the highest and who knows how 2011 will end up with some of the coolest wettest weather this spring now turning to hot and dry.

### 2010 Skagit County Weather as recorded at WSU NWREC

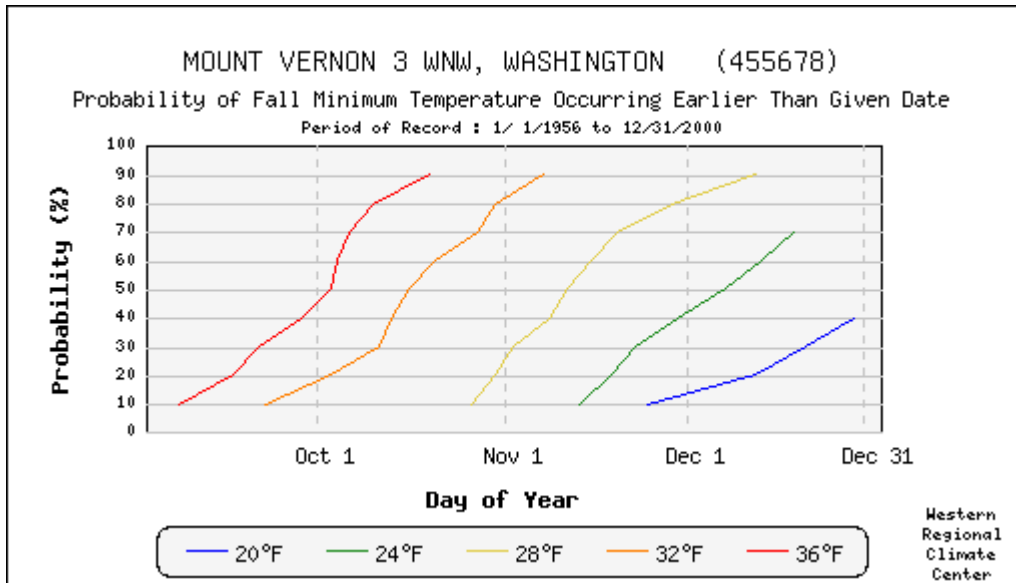
<b>Month</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Monthly Average</b>	<b>Precipitation</b>
<i>January</i>	53	41	47	2.81
<i>February</i>	54	38	46	1.25
<i>March</i>	51	38	45	2.16
<i>April</i>	57	42	49	2.53
<i>May</i>	60	45	52	4.57
<i>June</i>	64	50	57	1.66
<i>July</i>	72	50	61	0.05
<i>August</i>	72	51	62	1.17
<i>September</i>	66	52	59	2.87
<i>October</i>	60	44	52	1.76
<i>November</i>	48	37	43	3.73
<i>December</i>	48	38	43	3.27
				Year Total – 27.83

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

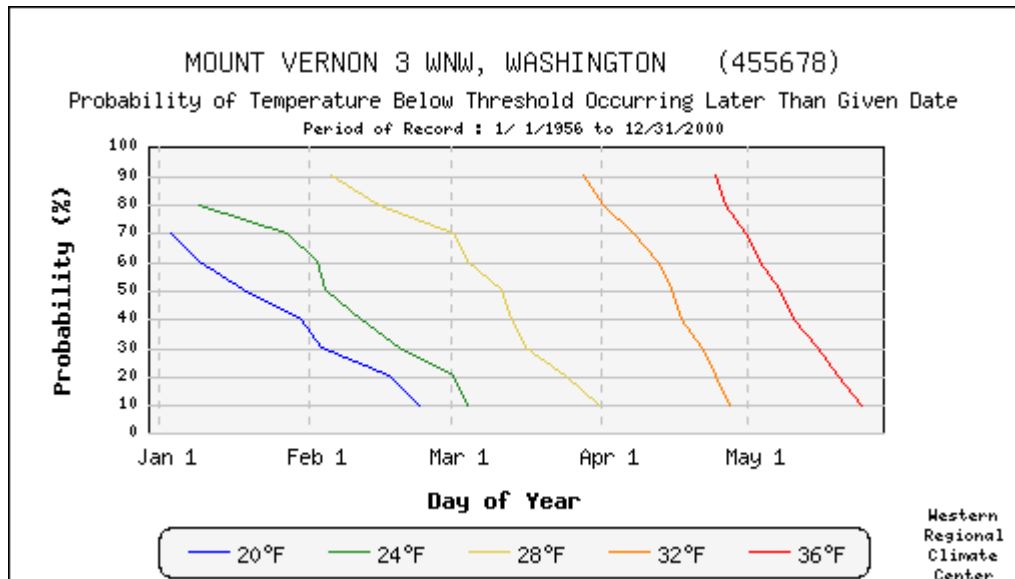
## FROST FREE DAYS:

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 was used on approximately 10,000 acres of cropland in 2010. This was below average for Skagit County due to an extremely wet late spring/early summer. The main crops irrigated were 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 eight 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. Cucumber Pickles (Pleasant Valley), 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 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. 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, approximately 20,000 visitors in 2008, 2009 and 2010.
- ♦ Organic acreage in Skagit County has stabilized with the 2008 recession. In 2010 there was only one additional certified organic farmer added to the area and acreages dipped slightly from 5,820 acres in certified organic production in 2009 to 5,579 acres in 2010. There are currently 44 certified organic farms in Skagit County. There are also 129 acres in transition into the certified organic program in Skagit County. Organic production in Skagit County is valued at \$12,011,836, making it the highest in Western Washington.

(Source: <http://www.tfrec.wsu.edu/pdfs/P1774.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
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
January 1, 2011	8.67

## 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 2010 Skagit crop showed below average yields and average quality with a low 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. In 2009 prices eroded due



to high inventories, and overproduction. However, those producers who were able to keep fruit on hand until 2010 were rewarded due to earthquakes that took place in Argentina and their inability to ship fruit to the United States. 2010 was the first year in Skagit County that no large commercial plantings of blueberries took place; also there was a limited commercial harvest of blackberries due to low temperatures that took place late in 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 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 2010 largely for the nutrient and disease suppression that brassica crops provide.



## 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 consumers pay for eggs decreased from the grain shortage year of 2008 with the cost per dozen averaging \$1.66 for 2010.

(<http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/MeatPriceSpreads/>)

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 contracts with area growers to produce approximately 1000 acres of cucumbers in Skagit County. This crop is vital to the rotational base, so please be sure to support this local company.

## PEAS

For the first time since their inception, Twin City Foods in Stanwood decided not to contract with farmers in Skagit County for green peas in 2010. Skagit County green peas are among the finest in the world for quality and yields; however, they can be produced cheaper in other areas. Peas are a great rotational crop for Skagit County because of their nitrogen fixing abilities, so they will be greatly missed by area farmers.



## 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 Silver Scurf and Irrigation are now 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 11,500 acres of potatoes currently grown in Skagit County. Overall production was down for 2010 due the rains that came in May and June of 2010. Over 25% of the crop was lost with up to 50% suffering some damage. Source: Peerbolt Crop Management update June 22, 2010.



## 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 US production of frozen red raspberries, and 95% of that is from Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

Overall prices for the 2010 raspberry crop continued to be good due to poor production world wide and gradually increasing demand. In Skagit County yields were good for those farms set up with irrigation. Overall quality was down slightly due to the poor spring.



## 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 US table beet seed. Skagit County is known as a significant world contributor with approximately 8% of the world's spinach seed, 25% of the worlds cabbage seed, and 50% of the worlds beet seed.

(continued on next page)

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 to be proactive in managing specialty seed crops challenges.



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.

There are eight vegetable seed companies in Skagit County: Alf Christianson, D&D, Rijk Zwaan, Schafer, Seminis, 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. SOURCE: [http://www.ipmcenters.org/cropprofiles/CP\\_form.cfm](http://www.ipmcenters.org/cropprofiles/CP_form.cfm)

## **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. 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.

## 2010 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
2010	29	30	264,944,400	15.42	\$40,854,426	\$1,408,773
2009	27	28	237,502,107	11.76	\$27,930,248	\$1,034,454
2008	29	27	272,623,494	16.87	\$45,991,583	\$1,585,917
2007	37	29	279,077,546	18.67	\$52,103,778	\$1,796,682
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

How do you spell relief? H-I-G-H-E-R M-I-L-K P-R-I-C-E-S Dairying during 2010 for those dairies that survived the 2009 financial catastrophe, was more than a welcome relief—it meant hope of a future. That hope was needed also because of the loss of the pea industry in 2010, which has always been a lucrative cash crop that fit crop rotation strategies for dairies and crop producers. Skagit dairies lost over \$25 million in 2008 and 2009. Income for 2010 was almost \$13 million more than for 2009. This was due in part to higher milk prices, increasing by over \$4 per hundred weight (\$15.42 vs. \$11.76). The milk prices paid gradually increased throughout the year. The increased cash flow had an immediate response in higher milk production, increasing by over 27 million pounds. Monthly per herd income was higher by over \$20,000 to start the year and continued to increase throughout the year to average over \$30,000 more income each month of 2010 over 2009 income. However, costs for fuel and fertilizer were yet higher again, but feed prices held steady from 2009 levels when feed inputs had been substantially reduced in order to survive the lowest milk prices since 2002 and 2003. Historical data teaches that cautious management decisions are essential and include the following time-tested business practices:

- ◆ Diversification of income streams
- ◆ Enterprise budgeting, thus requiring each enterprise to contribute to the health of the business
- ◆ Reduce and eliminate unnecessary and unbudgeted non-farm expenses
- ◆ Turn liabilities into assets
- ◆ Eliminate high-risk cows from the dairy
- ◆ Maximize on-farm feed production while optimizing feed quality
- ◆ Take advantage of value-added marketing strategies
- ◆ Build an image of success and develop relationships for added business options
- ◆ Generate new opportunities for youth which will add new skills, energy, and enthusiasm



## 2010 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

\*Statistical averages

Year	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	*Milk Income/dairy
2010	264,944,400	15.42	\$40,854,426.48	29	\$1,412,686.85
2009	237,502,107	11.76	\$27,930,247.78	27	\$1,034,453.62
2008	272,623,494	16.87	\$45,991,583.44	29	\$1,587,163.73
2007	279,077,546	18.67	\$52,103,777.84	29	\$1,796,681.99
2006	318,664,000	12.07	\$38,462,744.80	37	\$1,039,533.64
2005	343,039,400	14.20	\$48,711,594.80	44	\$1,107,081.70
2004	353,067,600	14.82	\$52,324,618.32	46	\$1,137,491.70
2003	369,757,449	11.32	\$41,856,543.23	50	\$837,130.86

### 2010 DATA

Month	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	Milk Income/dairy
January	21,877,787	14.88	\$3,255,414.71	29	\$112,255.68
February	20,290,465	14.63	\$2,968,495.03	29	\$102,361.90
March	22,415,909	13.86	\$3,106,844.99	30	\$103,561.50
April	22,092,425	13.79	\$3,046,545.41	30	\$101,551.51
May	22,800,993	14.60	\$3,328,944.98	30	\$110,964.83
June	22,192,851	15.18	\$3,368,874.78	30	\$112,295.83
July	23,182,426	15.67	\$3,632,686.15	30	\$121,089.54
August	23,009,179	16.16	\$3,718,283.33	30	\$123,942.78
September	21,840,263	16.94	\$3,699,740.55	28	\$132,133.59
October	21,948,551	17.35	\$3,808,073.60	28	\$136,002.63
November	21,126,536	16.71	\$3,530,244.17	27	\$130,749.78
December	22,167,015	15.32	\$3,395,986.70	27	\$125,777.29
<b>**TOTALS</b>	264,944,400	15.42	\$40,860,134.38	29 Ave	\$1,412,686.85

\*\*Accumulated averages

## SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY \*

CROP	2010	2000	1990	1978	1968
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	100	373	103	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	1,200	625	xxx	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	200	800	468	890	220
Cucumbers (processing)	1000	2'396	1,900	1,094	1,070
Field Crops <sup>(2)</sup>	35,000	22,650	33,050	25,000	2,800
Grass Seed	650	1,081	xxx	xxx	xxx
Misc. Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000	3623	665	975	562
Peas (processing)	0	7233	14,880	15,898	32,289
Potatoes	10,500	9,500	7,250	1,520	537
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	420	524	150
Raspberries	1,300	1441	xxx	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	475	390	615	550	1,443
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	616	1,098	5,521
Vegetable Seed <sup>(4)</sup>	2669.7	3800	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 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](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Getting_Started/Guide_to_Census_Products/index.asp)*

### 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**

<b>Crop</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1978</b>	<b>1968</b>
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	200,000	865,200	592,250	xxx	xxx
Blueberries	6,000,000	3,011,646	xxx	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	600,000	985,600	493,794	1,181,157	78,672
Cucumbers (processing)	1,500,000	5,220,773	4,944,034	1,920,930	553,725
Dairy (milk sold)	40,854,426	43,895,519	53,122,168	23,885,268	8,400,250
Eggs and Fryers <sup>(2)</sup>	25,000,000	12,309,000	14,016,877	5,177,500	1,887,000
Field Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	30,000,000	9,423,600	12,844,718	2,575,000	3,000,000
Grass Seed	487,500	545,000	xxx	xxx	xxx
Livestock	7,500,000	8,123,000	4,400,000	5,493,283	2,200,000
Misc. Crops <sup>(4)</sup>	20,000,000	16,944,598	2,046,600	176,000	319,500
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	50,000,000	56,207,469	24,000,000	4,900,000	1,500,000
Peas (processing)	0	3,044,092	5,640,903	7,117,743	6,139,843
Potatoes	52,500,000	52,725,000	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	8,400,000	4,143,347	xxx	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	2,500,000	2,725,643	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>	10,380,750	7,566,503	3,144,352	1,828,968	500,000
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>255,922,676</b>	<b>227,351,000</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 (ACRES)**

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Total Clallam	Total Cowlitz	Total Island	Total Jeffer	Total Lewis	Total Snohomish	Total Whatcom	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
<b>*2010</b>	512	494.7	1619	44	2669.7	NA	NA	46.05	1	NA	384	NA	3100.75
<b>*2009</b>	305	433.25	1631.5	75	2444.75	NA	NA	69.5	NA	NA	315	NA	2829.25
<b>*2008</b>	457	381	1456	20	2314	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	367	NA	2741
<b>*2007</b>	530	400	1493	80	2503	NA	NA	73	NA	NA	272	26	2874
<b>*2006</b>	519	352	1680	69	2620	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	458	NA	3138
<b>2003</b>	316	93	790	20	1,219	45	-	34	10	-	272	93	1,663
<b>2002</b>	313	95	770	26	1,204	71	-	105		110	234	102	1,826
<b>2001</b>	710	349	1,112	190	2,361	78	-	126		194	417	79	3,255
<b>2000</b>	763	410	2,412	215	3,800	100	-	256		146	661	112	5,075
<b>1999</b>	771	526	2,630	217	4,145	94	-	128		120	778	52	5,317
<b>1998</b>	537	859	1,824	355	3,575	68	-	125		71	527	48	4,414
<b>1997</b>	1,048	640	2,476	458	4,622	448	55	159		90	395	-	5,769
<b>1996</b>	962	296	2,049	727	4,034	-	-	204		-	511	-	4,749
<b>1995</b>	592	388	2,433	590	4,005	-	-	209		-	646	-	4,860

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  
(DOLLARS)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Clallam	Cowlitz	Island	Jefferson	Lewis	Snohomish	Whatcom	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
2010	1,536,000	2,473,500	4,857,000	132,000	8,998,500	NA	NA	230,250	NA	NA	1,152,000	NA	10,380,750
2009	915,000	2,166,250	4,894,500	225,000	8,200,750	NA	NA	347,500	NA	NA	1,017,000	NA	9,565,250
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

# 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**

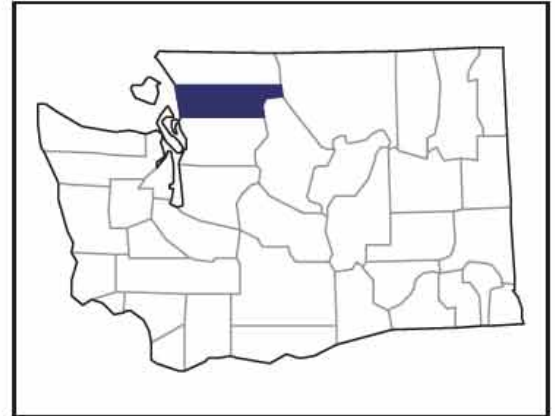
Bamboo  
Christmas trees  
Dill\*  
Fennel\*  
Gourds\*  
Hybrid poplar  
Sod  
Tea\*

\*Less than ten acres

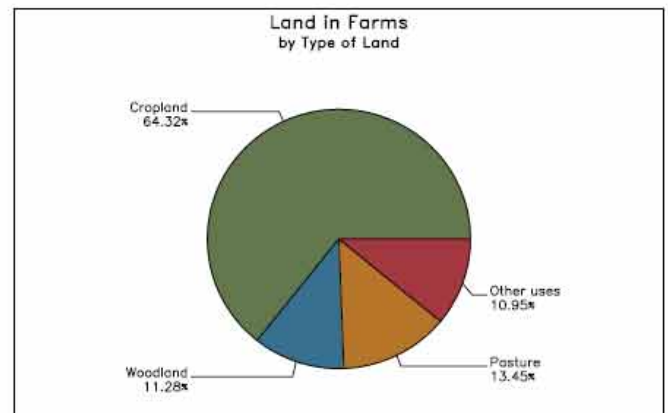
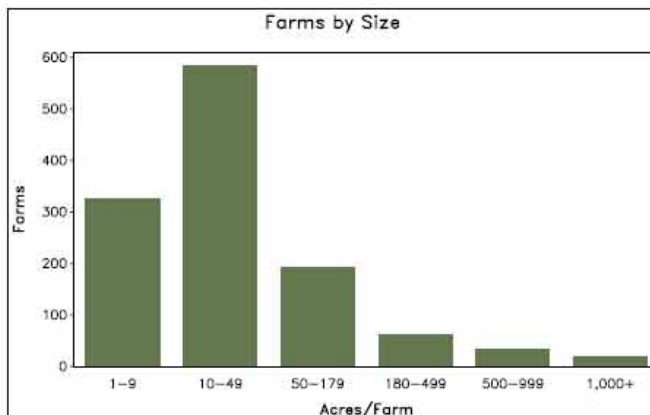
# 2007 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE

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

Ag Tech Services  
Alf Christianson Seed Company  
Anderson Blueberry Farm  
Capital Press  
Dai-Zen Egg Farm  
Day Creek Poultry Farms  
Draper Valley Farms, Inc.  
Dynes Farms  
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  
Norm Nelson, Inc.  
North Fork Farms  
North Fork Nursery  
Puget Sound Potatoes  
Ralph's Greenhouse  
Sakuma Bros. Farm  
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 Northwestern Research and Extension Center at Mount Vernon  
Ned Zaugg (retired), WSU Skagit County Extension