



WSU Skagit County Extension

# Skagit County Agriculture Statistics

2017



# Skagit County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



Greetings!

Washington State University Skagit County Extension has been keeping crop records since 1922. Information is compiled from processing companies, farm organizations, growers, field representatives, media sources, and University sources.

Agricultural statistics with related written details are important for several reasons:

- ♦ Figures show the past production history of farming in a community;
- ♦ Statistics show the ups and downs of agriculture in relationship to weather, economics, urban encroachment, disasters, or a shift in production to other areas;
- ♦ This information provides 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 and we can discuss the enclosed information.

*Don McMoran*

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Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance economic well-being and quality of life by connecting them to the knowledge base of the university and by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.



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## Report Summary

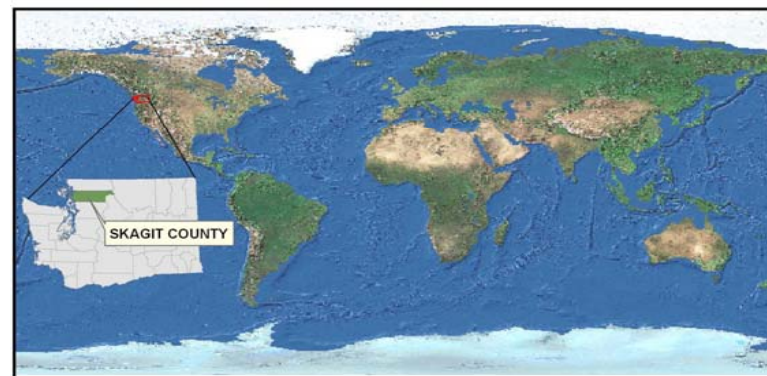
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## GEOGRAPHY

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.



## 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).



Photo by WSU SCMG Sheri Hunter



## 2017 WEATHER PICTURE

The winter of 2016/2017 was delayed with the first freeze not occurring until December 6th, and the coldest days of the year occurred on February 23rd at 22.3 degrees. The cold weather had a slight impact on the perennial cropping systems in Skagit County; there were four reported crop failures due to freezing weather on cabbage seed and several crop failures on raspberries and/or blackberries. The spring of 2017 was one for the record books. Farmers received rainfall events in March to keep them out of their fields. April was the start of a major drought in Skagit County. Farmers had very little precipitation from April through the end of September. Farmers were able to have good weather to get crops in the ground with many reporting no rain delays in planting despite a few rain showers. May was another fabulous planting month with about 2 inches of precipitation falling at WSU NWREC in Mount Vernon. Summer was hot and dry with driest weather we have ever seen in western Washington. The hot/dry weather created some of the worst forest fires in the Pacific Northwest that impacted Skagit County with heavy smoke. The summer of 2017 created the dividing line between the have and the have nots. The farmers that were able to irrigate their crops reported high yields and quality, those that were not equipped with irrigation did not fare as well. October closed the door on harvest with 5.39 inches of rain falling at WSU NWREC.

Month	High	Low	Average Air temp	Precipitation
<i>January</i>	44	29.8	36.4	1.62
<i>February</i>	47.1	33.1	40.1	3.18
<i>March</i>	51.9	40.5	45.8	5.01
<i>April</i>	57.8	44.2	50.5	3
<i>May</i>	65.2	46.3	55.4	2.36
<i>June</i>	69.3	50.4	59.8	0.94
<i>July</i>	74	51.8	62.5	0.01
<i>August</i>	76.9	52.3	63.7	0.04
<i>September</i>	71.8	49.3	59.7	1.59
<i>October</i>	59.3	41.1	49.6	5.39
<i>November</i>	51.7	41	46.4	6.22
<i>December</i>	44.5	32	37.4	3.76
				Year Total – 33.12

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

I  FARMING



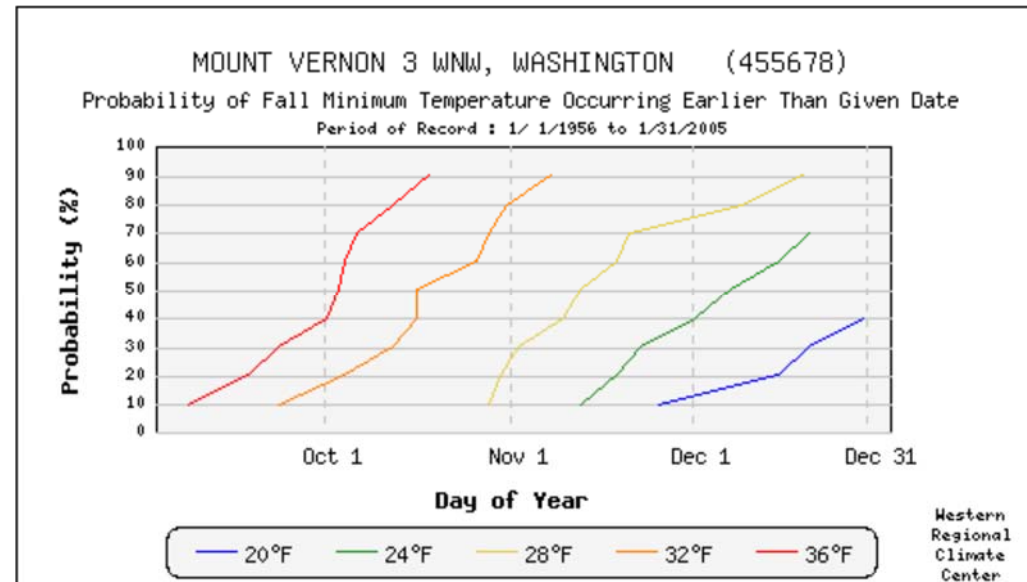
## FROST FREE DAYS:

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.

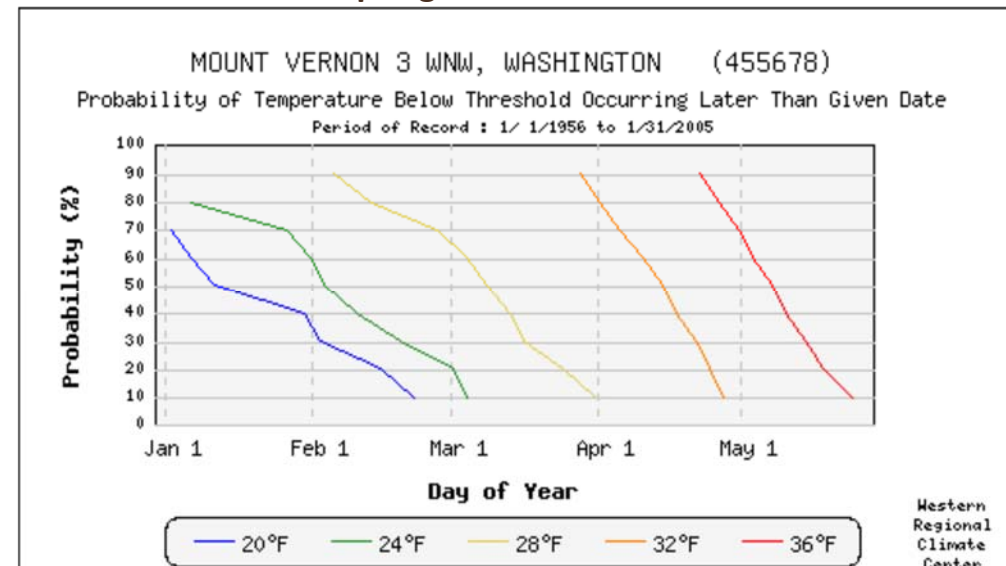


Photography by Don McMoran

## Fall Freeze Probabilities



## Spring Freeze Probabilities





## IRRIGATION

In July and August, irrigation was used on approximately 30,000 acres of cropland in 2017. This was above average for Skagit County due to the summer drought. The main crops irrigated were corn, grass pasture, berries, potatoes, vegetable seed crops, and tree fruits.

## SOILS

The Skagit Valley was formed by water-deposited (alluvial) soils. Most cropland and pasture land in the county is located in the floodplain-delta area. This area covers the valley floor and extends east along the Skagit River and its tributaries. There are five primary soil types in the floodplain-delta area. Three types are located in the floodplain: Skagit (26%), which consists of silt loam, silty clay loam, and a small amount of very fine sandy loam; Sumas (15%); and Field (14%). The other two types are found along the Skagit River: Lorus (17%) and Pilchuck (14%). Floodplain soils are highly productive under dry land farming. Elevation in this area ranges from sea level to 500 feet.

Soil wetness is the major limitation for crops in the floodplain area. The Skagit and Samish Rivers have had a long history of flooding. The Skagit River, from just west of Sedro-Woolley to the Puget Sound, is protected from flooding by dikes and levees. The floodplain areas along the lower reaches of the Samish River, below Thomas Creek, are flooded almost every year.

## AGRICULTURE: SKAGIT FUN FACTS

- ♦ Skagit County is a major producer of cabbage, table beet, and spinach seed for the world. There are six vegetable seed companies in the county, most of which market products worldwide.
- ♦ There are two remaining processing companies in Skagit County: Sakuma Brothers and Gielow Pickles.
- ♦ There are two major ag-supply dealers in the Valley: Skagit Farmers Supply and Wilbur-Ellis provide supplies and services to farmers.
- ♦ More tulip and daffodil bulbs are produced in Skagit County than in any county in the United States.
- ♦ Skagit County ranks fifth in dairy production in Washington State.
- ♦ 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.
- ♦ Every year since 1999 approximately 20,000 visitors enjoy the Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms.







## 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.



Photo by Don McMoran

## SKAGIT COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2017
43,273	52,381	64,138	79,555	102,300	116,910	121,846

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Washington State Minimum Wage

Effective Date	Dollars per Hour
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
January 1, 2014	9.32
January 1, 2015	9.47
January 1, 2017	11.00



## 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 2017 Skagit crop showed average yields and average quality with a moderate pricing structure.

Our coastal climate allows us to grow varieties that are different from those grown in the large apple-producing regions of central Washington. Varieties grown here such as Jonagold, Gravenstein, Spartan, Akane and Honey Crisp are excellent apples to consume, but with no apple processing facilities in Skagit County, shipping the apples back and forth across the mountain passes makes commercial production unprofitable.

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.

## BLUEBERRIES

Harvested by hand and machine, about half the crop is sold for fresh market, and half is processed. Yields and quality in this area are exceptionally high compared to the Midwest. Our cooler summer temperatures allow the berries to ripen slowly, which results in more sugar. Prices have declined for blueberries due to overproduction.

## BLACKBERRIES

2017 provided mixed reviews for the blackberry crop. Warmer winter temperatures increased fruit production but over-production kept prices lower. Prices bottomed out in 2017 and an increase is expected for 2018. Given the climate of Skagit County, blackberries have the potential to become a much larger player in Skagit County fruit production.





## BULB CROPS

Approximately 1,000 acres of tulips and daffodils 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 500 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. One of the three is expected to discontinue producing daffodils at the end of the 2018 season. Iris production was discontinued in 2016.



## BRUSSELS SPROUTS, CAULIFLOWER AND BROCCOLI

All Skagit County Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli are grown for fresh market. Head quality is exceptionally high in this region. Approximately 60% to 80% of the Brussels sprouts, broccoli and cauliflower grown in Skagit is consumed in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Skagit farmers grew about 2,500 acres of Brussels sprouts, cauliflower and broccoli this year. Farmers in the Skagit Valley maintained acreages for these important rotational crops in 2017 largely for the nutrient and disease suppression that brassica crops provide.



## CHICKENS AND EGGS

Washington is ranked 19th in the nation for egg production (Source: [http://www.stuffaboutstates.com/agriculture/livestock/chicken\\_eggs.htm](http://www.stuffaboutstates.com/agriculture/livestock/chicken_eggs.htm)). Two companies produce the majority of the eggs in Skagit County: National Foods and Wilcox Farms (entering the scene in 2016). These two farms account for hundreds of millions of eggs being produced in Skagit County and Washington State.

Retail egg prices are among the most volatile retail food prices, as they can be affected by seasonal demand. Egg prices decreased 5.8 percent from April to May but are 21.6 percent above May 2017 levels.

In 2017, more egg-laying birds and an increased number of eggs per hen placed downward pressure on prices. Recent price surges at the farm and wholesale level may indicate that retail egg prices will continue to rise over the next several months. Egg prices are expected to increase 6.0 to 7.0 percent in 2018. (Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings.aspx>).



The sole Washington-owned chicken processor in the state, Draper Valley Farms, is located in Mount Vernon. The company employs approximately 500 people and has sales around 80 million dollars.





## CUCUMBERS

The lone pickle cucumber processor in Washington State is Gielow Pickles located at the Port of Skagit County with headquarters located in Lexington, MI. According to their website, “Making pickles is in our blood. When our family began making pickles in the early 1900’s, our goal was to make the highest quality pickle at a competitive price. Today, our goal remains the same. The use of automated packaging equipment, direct contact with growers across America, and the buying power of the market leaders enables Gielow Pickles to accomplish our goal.”



## POTATOES

Potato acreage consists primarily of fresh market reds, whites, yellows, purple, fingerlings and some chipping potatoes. Skagit potatoes are in demand for their high quality. Late blight disease is a constant threat to the industry; however, due to a study of all the growers in Skagit and northern Snohomish counties, WSU Skagit County Extension was able to determine that Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Silver Scurf continues to be more of a problem for area growers. Researchers at WSU NWREC and WSU Skagit County Extension are now working on these issues. Because of the need for a three-year rotation, there is limited ground available for the 12,000 acres of potatoes currently grown in Skagit County. Overall production remained constant for 2017. The disadvantage in 2017 was that once the wet spring turned, things opened up for the growers; they scrambled to get enough water on the crop during the drought. There were over 1000 acres of potatoes that were not harvested in 2017 based on heavy rains late in the harvest season.



Photo by Don McMoran

## RASPBERRIES

The majority of raspberry acreage in Skagit County is harvested by machine; high labor costs designate that hand harvest be designated for fresh consumption. The primary variety is Meeker. The majority of the crop is frozen so it can be processed at a later date into juice, preserves, yogurt, bakery ingredients, and frozen products. Skagit County produces about 3% of the state’s crop. Washington produces about 75% of the total U.S. production of frozen red raspberries, and 95% of that is from Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

Overall prices for the 2017 raspberry crop continued to be good due to poor production worldwide and gradually increasing demand. In Skagit County, yields were average in 2017 despite some of the fields getting set back by cold winter temperatures.







## SEED CROPS

A large variety of vegetable seed crops are grown in the Skagit Valley; the top 3 in both acreage and farmgate value are spinach, cabbage and beet seed. Skagit and Snohomish counties produce nearly 75% of the US supply of spinach and cabbage seed and nearly 95% of the U.S. table beet seed. Skagit County is known as a significant world contributor with approximately 8% of the world's spinach seed, 25% of the world's cabbage seed, and 25% of the world's beet seed. Other vegetable seeds produced in Skagit County include arugula, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, coriander, mustard, parsley, parsnip, rutabaga, swiss chard and turnip.

Vegetable seed production is highly technical and often involves long rotation intervals—sometimes stretching beyond a decade. Skagit County farmers have developed innovative tools and cultural practices along with a close relationship with Washington State University research scientists and Extension professionals to be proactive in managing specialty seed crops challenges.

Vegetable seeds from the Skagit County 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 seed industry growing in Skagit County.

Beet and spinach seed yields were down significantly in 2017 in areas without supplemental irrigation due to the drought.

There was approximately 15 percent cabbage seed damage due to extreme winter weather conditions in the 2017 growing season.

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

Some turf and forage grasses for seed are also grown in Skagit County; production varies widely depending upon market volatility.



Spinach Seed Field— Photo by Don McMoran



Beet Seed Field— Photo by Don McMoran



Cabbage Seed Field— Photo by Don McMoran



## STRAWBERRIES

The main varieties are Albion, Shuksan, Totem, Puget Reliance, Hood, Puget Summer, Redcrest and Rainier. Most strawberries are sold to processors. Skagit County produces about 20% of the state's strawberries. Acreage is beginning to increase in Skagit County, based in part to a demand for local production. More growers are changing varieties to capture more of the fresh market by producing everbearing strawberries and using innovative technologies to increase the length of the season.



## WINE GRAPES

The marine climate in the Skagit Valley is similar in many ways to the fine wine producing areas of France and Germany. Research conducted from 1976 to 1988 at WSU NWREC produced a number of white wine grape varieties, which have already proven successful in area vineyards. More recent 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.



## ORGANIC FARMING

- ♦ In 2017 there were 65 certified organic producers, two secondary companies/producers and one producer transitioning to organic production in Skagit County on 7,917 acres and more than 70 acres in transition. Organic production in Skagit County is valued at \$26,900,000, making it the highest organic agricultural producing county in Western Washington.
- ♦ WSU Skagit County Extension has been teaching the Cultivating Success Beginning Farmer and Rancher course and the Agricultural Entrepreneur bilingual 12-week course in partnership with Skagit Valley College since 2006. To date more than 500 students have been educated on organic/sustainable agricultural production.

(Source: personal communications with WSU Sustainable Agriculture Specialist, David Granatstein)



Photo by Don McMoran



## 2017 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

Year	Number of Dairies		Total Pounds	Uniform Ave.	Annual Total Milk Value	
	Start of Year	End of Year	Milk Produced	Milk Price/ cwt*	Total County	Ave Value/Farm
2017	30	30	279,118,178	\$16.16	\$45,105,498	\$1,503,517
2016	30	30	277,208,444	\$14.67	\$40,666,479	\$1,355,549
2015	29	30	287,906,784	\$15.59	\$44,884,668	\$1,521,514
2014	29	29	299,584,645	\$22.66	\$67,885,881	\$2,340,892
2013	30	29	280,182,987	\$18.84	\$52,786,475	\$1,759,549
2012	31	30	270,573,960	\$17.20	\$46,538,721	\$1,551,291
2011	30	31	336,923,400	\$19.20	\$64,689,293	\$2,086,751
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
* Statistical uniform price = Class III milk price + producer price differential.						

## 2017 DATA

January	23,020,924	\$17.03	\$3,920,463	30	\$130,682
February	21,392,497	\$16.58	\$3,546,876	30	\$118,229
March	23,537,336	\$15.93	\$3,749,497	30	\$124,983
April	23,365,389	\$15.23	\$3,558,549	31	\$114,792
May	24,292,377	\$15.43	\$3,748,314	30	\$124,944
June	23,831,457	\$16.49	\$3,929,807	30	\$130,994
July	24,745,994	\$16.60	\$4,107,835	30	\$136,928
August	24,421,859	\$17.05	\$4,163,927	30	\$138,798
September	22,809,390	\$16.59	\$3,784,078	30	\$126,136
October	23,213,203	\$16.03	\$3,721,076	30	\$124,036
November	21,585,030	\$15.69	\$3,386,691	30	\$112,890
December	22,902,722	\$15.21	\$3,483,504	30	\$116,117
TOTALS	279,118,178	ave. \$16.16	\$45,100,617	30.08 ave	\$1,499,528

U.S. dairy product consumption statistics reveal interesting trends. The USDA's Economic Research Service reports the following changes between 1975 and 2013:

- Milk and cream: 28% decrease in consumption
- **Yogurt: 645% increase in consumption**
- **Cheese: 89% increase in consumption**
- Evaporated and condensed milk: 16% decrease in consumption
- Frozen products: 23% decrease in consumption



Photo by Don McMoran

### Sources:

2017 Washington Annual Agriculture Bulletin, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northwest Regional Field Office.

2017 Pacific Northwest Federal Milk Marketing Order, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Dairy Programs.





## 2017 DAIRY

Washington dairy producers continue to showcase survival resiliency in the face of challenging economic conditions. Following reported profitability losses of \$30 and \$40 on every cow milked in 2015 and 2016, respectively, profitability increased in 2017 because milk prices improved primarily due to increasing demand for butter. However, for the first half of 2018, milk prices have weakened, placing dairy farmers on a farm profitability rollercoaster, where the rise and fall in profitability is directly related to international trade in dairy products affecting milk price.

U.S. dairy exports as a percent of production continue to trend upward and reached 14.7% in 2017. Increasing reliance on milk exports increases variability of prices as international dairy production, geo-economics, and geo-politics effect dairy markets. For Pacific Rim trading partners, U.S. increased dairy exports by value to China, Japan, and South Korea by 49%, 41%, and 21%, respectively in 2017 over 2016. The ongoing geo-political rhetoric concerning tariffs, trade wars, and trade agreements has dairy producers on edge regarding the potential future impacts of ongoing disputes on milk prices. Counter-tariff measures targeting agriculture have been announced by China, Mexico, and Canada, who are the leading U.S. dairy export destinations. As part of the ongoing trade dispute, Canada has been called out for its protectionist dairy policy negatively affecting upper-Midwest dairy producers, which is likely to be a controversy in future trade negotiations. At this time we can only estimate actual trade impacts, but any impact to the highly competitive dairy market is likely to be negative.



Photo by Jason VanderKooy

To help dairy producers manage risk, the dairy Margin Protection Program (MPP) was modified in Feb. 2018. The MPP allows producers to insure a milk price–feed cost margin. Major changes are: the catastrophic level of margin coverage offered at no cost was raised from \$4/cwt to \$5/cwt; premium costs were reduced; and the margin payment calculation was changed to a monthly basis rather than a two-month average. When Congress made changes to MPP, they also made changes to the Livestock Gross Margin–Dairy program by removing the restrictive \$20 million annual cap to make this program more widely available. These changes are important improvements to the dairy farm safety net and producers need to evaluate their risk management strategies as they face uncertain market impacts out of their management control.

--Dr. Shannon Neibergs, WSU Livestock Economist





## 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>*2017</b>	486	259.8	1956	17	2718.8	NA	NA	67	10	300	741.5	53.8	3891.1
<b>*2016</b>	581	236.2	1260	45	2122.2	NA	NA	72.8	10	300	506.5	45	3056.5
<b>*2015</b>	609	250	1227	25	2111	NA	NA	55.6	10	250	503	42.6	2972.2
<b>*2014</b>	734	201.6	1622	20	2577.6	NA	NA	50	10	200	251.5	30	2919.1
<b>*2013</b>	1005	322	2139	25	3491	NA	NA	58.5	1	NA	479	50	4079.5
<b>*2012</b>	733	388	1847	50	3018	NA	NA	43.5	1	NA	531	56.7	3600.2
<b>*2011</b>	668	338.7	1454	68	2460.7	NA	NA	76.3	1	NA	235	NA	2773.0
<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	1219	45	-	34	10	-	272	93	1663
<b>2002</b>	313	95	770	26	1204	71	-	105		110	234	102	1826
<b>2001</b>	710	349	1112	190	2361	78	-	126		194	417	79	3255
<b>2000</b>	763	410	2412	215	3800	100	-	256		146	661	112	5075

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								
2016	1,458,000	2,598,000	5,868,000	51,000	9,975,000	NA	NA	670,000	100,000	1,500,000	3,707,500	530,000	16,482,500
2016	2,324,000	2,362,000	3,780,000	135,000	8,601,000	NA	NA	728,000	100,000	1,500,000	2,532,500	450,000	13,911,500
2015	1,827,000	1,250,000	3,681,000	75,000	6,833,000	NA	NA	278,000	100,000	500,000	1,509,000	213,000	9,433,000
2014	2,202,000	2,016,000	4,866,000	60,000	9,144,000	NA	NA	150,000	400,000	800,000	1,004,000	150,000	11,648,000
2013	1,512,500	1,932,000	5,347,500	62,500	8,854,500	NA	NA	292,500	2500	NA	2,395,000	250,000	11,794,500
2012	1,899,00	1,940,00	5,541,000	75,000	9,455,00	NA	NA	217,500	1500	NA	1,703,00	388,500	11,765,500
2011	2,004,000	1,693,500	4,847,000	102,000	8,646,500	NA	NA	381,500	1500	NA	705,000	NA	9,734,500
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



## SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY \*

CROP	2017	2010	2000	1990	1978
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	75	100	373	103	n/a
Blackberries	500	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	4500	1,200	625	xxx	xxx
Brussels Sprouts	1500	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carrots (processing)	0	200	800	468	890
Cucumbers (processing)	500	1000	2,396	1,900	1,094
Dry Beans	1000	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Field Crops <sup>(2)</sup>	35,000	35,000	22,650	33,050	25,000
Grass Seed	1500	650	1,081	xxx	xxx
Misc. Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000	4,000	3623	665	975
Peas (processing)	0	0	7233	14,880	15,898
Potatoes	12,000	10,500	9,500	7,250	1,520
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	420	524
Raspberries	350	1,300	1441	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	500	475	390	615	550
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	0	616	1,098
Vegetable Seed <sup>(4)</sup>	2718.8	2669.7	3800	3,375	4,891

1) Includes no nonbearing trees.

2) Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn & grass silage, grass, oats, 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 2012 and can be viewed at the following web site: <https://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/>

## 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	20-25 tons
Raspberries	3.5-4.5 tons
Ryegrass seed	1500 lbs



# STATISTICAL SUMMARIES: \*

Dollar Value to Producer



Skagit County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION



Photo by Jason VanderKooy

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, small grain, & wheat.
4. Refers to Crops Grown in Skagit County on page 22.
5. Vegetable Seed includes, beet, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, rutabaga, spinach.

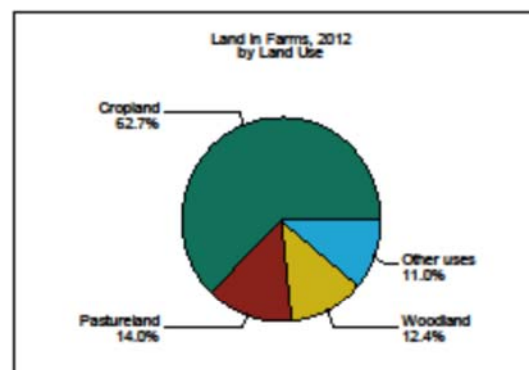
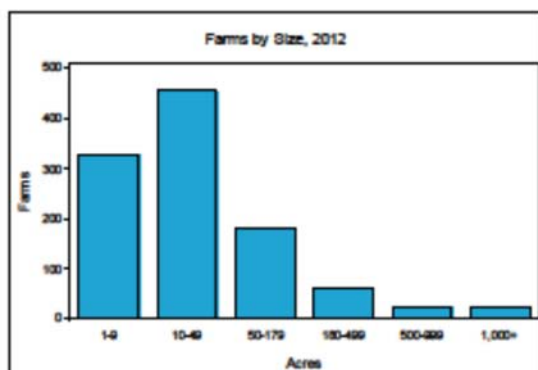
\*Figures shown are unofficial estimates based on input from processing companies, growers, agricultural organizations and agencies, field representatives, news articles, and Extension Agent experience. Crops grown by fewer than three producers are combined to protect confidentiality. Official agricultural figures are collected every five years by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The last Census of Agriculture was collected for the year 2012 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).

Crop	2017	2010	2000	1990	1978
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	100,000	200,000	865,200	592,250	xxx
Blackberries	1,500,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	20,000,000	6,000,000	3,011,646	xxx	xxx
Brussels Sprouts	7,500,000	50,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Carrots (processing)	0	600,000	985,600	493,794	1,181,157
Cucumbers (processing)	500,000	1,500,000	5,220,773	4,944,034	1,920,930
Dairy (milk sold)	45,105,498	40,854,426	43,895,519	53,122,168	23,885,268
Dry Beans	1,500,000	1,500	n/a	n/a	n/a
Eggs and Fryers <sup>(2)</sup>	25,000,000	25,000,000	12,309,000	14,016,877	5,177,500
Field Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	27,000,000	30,000,000	9,423,600	12,844,718	2,575,000
Grass Seed	1,500,000	487,500	545,000	xxx	xxx
Livestock	10,000,000	7,500,000	8,123,000	4,400,000	5,493,283
Misc.Crops <sup>(4)</sup>	20,000,000	20,000,000	16,944,598	2,046,600	176,000
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	50,000,000	50,000,000	56,207,469	24,000,000	4,900,000
Peas (processing)	0	0	3,044,092	5,640,903	7,117,743
Potatoes	60,000,000	52,500,000	52,725,000	33,746,600	2,032,800
Raspberries/ Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	1,179,450	1,789,058
Raspberries	1,000,000	8,400,000	4,143,347	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,725,643	2,496,280	1,233,314
Sweet Corn (processing)	0	0	0	187,828	1,187,462
Vegetable Seed <sup>(5)</sup>	9,975,000	10,380,750	7,566,503	3,144,352	1,828,968
TOTALS	282,680,498	255,974,176	227,351,000	165,141,854	63,181,133





	2012	2007	% change
<b>Number of Farms</b>	1,074	1,215	- 12
<b>Land in Farms</b>	106,538 acres	108,541 acres	- 2
<b>Average Size of Farm</b>	99 acres	89 acres	+ 11
<b>Market Value of Products Sold</b>	\$272,275,000	\$258,248,000	+ 6
Crop Sales \$201,007,000 (74 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$71,268,000 (26 percent)			
<b>Average Per Farm</b>	\$253,515	\$210,904	+ 20
<b>Government Payments</b>	\$1,442,000	\$630,000	+ 129
<b>Average Per Farm Receiving Payments</b>	\$12,121	\$5,835	+ 108



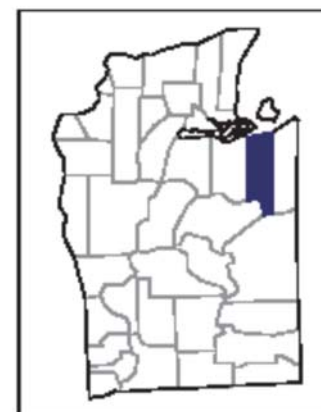
US Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service

[www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov)

Skagit County  
Washington

COUNTY PROFILE

2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE





## COMMERCIAL CROPS GROWN IN SKAGIT COUNTY

### **Fruit**

Aronia\*  
Blackberry  
Blueberry  
Boysenberry\*  
Currant\*  
Lingonberry\*  
Loganberry\*  
Marionberry\*  
Quince\*  
Raspberry  
Strawberry  
Tayberry\*  
Watermelon\*  
Wine Grape

### **Tree Fruit**

Apple  
Asian pear\*  
Cherry\*  
Filbert  
Peach\*  
Pear\*  
Plum\*

### **Vegetables**

Artichoke  
Asparagus and asparagus root\*  
Basil\*  
Bean  
Beet\*  
Bok Choy\*

Broccoli  
Brussels sprout  
Burdock\*  
Cabbage  
Cantaloupe\*  
Carrot  
Cauliflower  
Chives\*  
Cucumber  
Garlic\*  
Green pea\*  
Hothouse tomato\*  
Kale\*  
Kohlrabi\*  
Leek  
Lettuce  
Mizuna\*  
Onion\*  
Parsley\*  
Parsnip\*  
Pepper  
Potatoes  
Pumpkin  
Radish\*  
Rhubarb\*  
Salad Mix\*  
Spinach\*  
Summer squash  
Sweet corn  
Swiss chard\*  
Tomatillo\*  
Tomatoes\*

Turnip\*  
Winter squash\*

### **Seed Crops - Vegetable**

Arugula  
Broccoli-raab  
Brussels sprout  
Cabbage  
Cauliflower  
Chinese cabbage  
Chinese kale  
Chinese mustard  
Coriander  
India mustard  
Kale  
Kohlrabi  
Parsley  
Parsnip  
Radish  
Rutabaga  
Spinach  
Swiss chard  
Table Beet  
Turnip

### **Seed/Pulse Crops - Other**

Fava beans  
Pinto Beans  
Red beans  
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  
Marijuana  
Sod  
Tea\*

\*Less than ten acres



## *ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES SERVING SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURE*

Agrilink Foods  
Bank of the Pacific  
Bio Huma Netics, Inc.  
Brim Tractor  
Cascadian Farms  
Cucumber Industry Advisory Committee  
D & D Farms  
Farm Service Administration  
Farmers Equipment Company  
Gielow Pickles  
Harmony Dairy  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Northwest Ag Business Center  
Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation  
Northwest Bulb Growers  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
Northwest Food Processors Association  
Peoples Bank  
Puget Sound Seed Growers Association  
Rabo Bank  
Rijk Zwaan Seed  
Sakata Seed Company  
Sakuma Bros.  
Schafer Agriculture Services  
Skagit Bank  
Skagit Conservation District  
Skagit County Cattlemen's Association  
Skagit County Dairy Federation  
Skagit County Farm Bureau  
Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program  
Skagit County Horticultural Pest Board  
Skagit Dairy Women

Skagit Farmers Supply  
Skagit Seed Services  
Skagit Valley Red Potato Growers Assn.  
Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland  
Small Fruit Advisory Committee  
Sorensen Seed Co.  
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
USDA Farm Service Agency  
Tree Fruit Industry Advisory Committee  
Twin City Foods  
Valley Pride Sales  
WA Blueberry Commission  
WA Lettuce & Vegetable Co.  
WA Red Raspberry Commission  
WA Seed Potato Commission  
WA State Dairy Federation  
WA State Potato Commission  
WA Strawberry Commission  
Washington Tractor  
Western WA Agricultural Assn.  
Western WA Fruit Research Foundation  
Western WA Small Seed Advisory Committee  
Wilbur Ellis Company  
WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington  
Research & Extension Center  
WSU Clallam County Extension  
WSU Jefferson County Extension  
WSU Skagit County Extension  
WSU Whatcom County Extension





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

Ag Tech Services  
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Day Creek Poultry Farms  
Draper Valley Farms, Inc.  
Economic Development Aalliance of Skagit County  
Farm Service Agency  
Gielow Pickles Inc.  
Harmony Dairy  
Hedlin Farms  
Hughes Farms  
Knutzen Farms  
McMoran Farms  
Merritt's Apples  
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration  
Norm Nelson, Inc.  
Northwest Agriculture Business Center  
North Fork Nursery  
Ralph's Greenhouse  
Sakuma Bros. Farm  
Sakata Seed Company  
Schafer Ag Services, LLC  
Seminis Vegetable Seed Co.  
Skagit Farmers Supply  
Skagit Seed Services  
Skagit Select  
Skagit Valley Herald  
Sky Harvest Produce  
Sterling Hills Potato Farm

Syngenta Seeds, Inc.  
Universal Seed, Inc.  
US Department of Commerce  
US Department of Labor  
Valley Pride Sales  
Vikima Seed, USA  
Viva Farms  
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
Washington Bulb Co., Inc.  
Washington Fryer Commission  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Washington Red Raspberry Commission  
Washington State Employment Security Department  
Washington Strawberry Commission  
Western Washington Agriculture Association



Photo by Don McMoran