



WSU Skagit County Extension
Skagit County Agriculture Statistics

2021



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.

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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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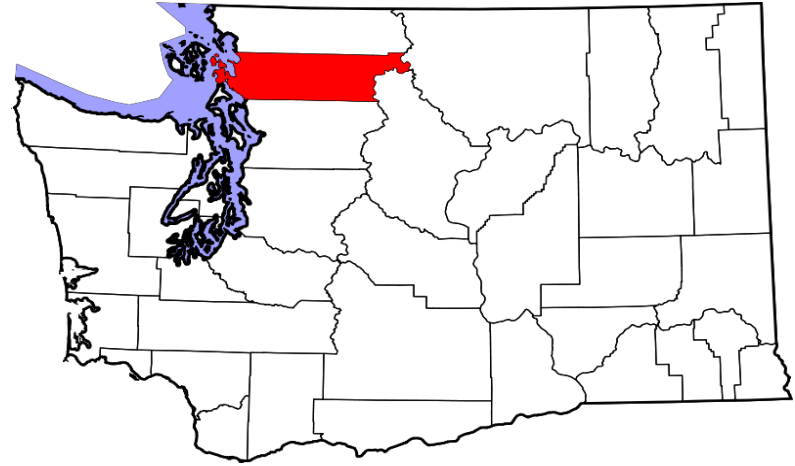
Farm Aid



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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.



Photo by WSU SCMG Sheri Hunter

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).

2021 WEATHER PICTURE

The winter of 2020/2021 began on October 22nd 2020 with the first frost of the season; the coldest days of the year occurred on January 9th at 26.3 degrees. The cold weather had a minimal impact on the perennial cropping systems in Skagit County; with very few reported crop failures due to freezing weather on cabbage seed, raspberries and/or blackberries. The spring of 2021 was very unusual with very little rainfall for the months of March, April and May. Most annual crop farmer had the shortest planting seasons of their lives, several not getting rained out of the fields the entire planting season. Many farmers were concerned about when the rain was going to arrive. Unfortunately, those concerns shifted to dealing with hot weather and drought as Western Washington Experienced some of the hottest and driest weather in history with less than an inch of rain in the months of June, July and August. Many farmers in Skagit County irrigated their crops more that they have ever irrigated in their lives and there was a lot of discussion on Global Climate Change. Harvest was difficult with many farms fighting the dry dusty conditions of Skagit County. October closed out harvest for the year with 4.29 inches of rain during the month and November slammed it shut several more times with 8.15 inches of rain, forcing farmers to leave a lot of crop in the ground. Oh, what a difference 2022 will make from hot and dry to cold and wet. Brace yourself Skagit Agriculture.

Month	Low	Ave	Max	Precipitation
January	36.5	42.5	48.5	3.75
February	34.2	39.1	43.6	4.92
March	36	43.5	51.7	1.61
April	38.6	49.1	59.7	1.18
May	43.6	53.7	63.6	0.87
June	51.8	62.8	73.7	0.91
July	52.1	62.8	75.4	0
August	52.6	62.6	74.2	0.96
September	48.8	58.1	68	3.18
October	43.9	50.5	57.5	4.29
November	41.6	47.3	52.6	8.15
December	29.8	35.5	40.3	2.92
				Year Total -32.74

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

I  FARMING

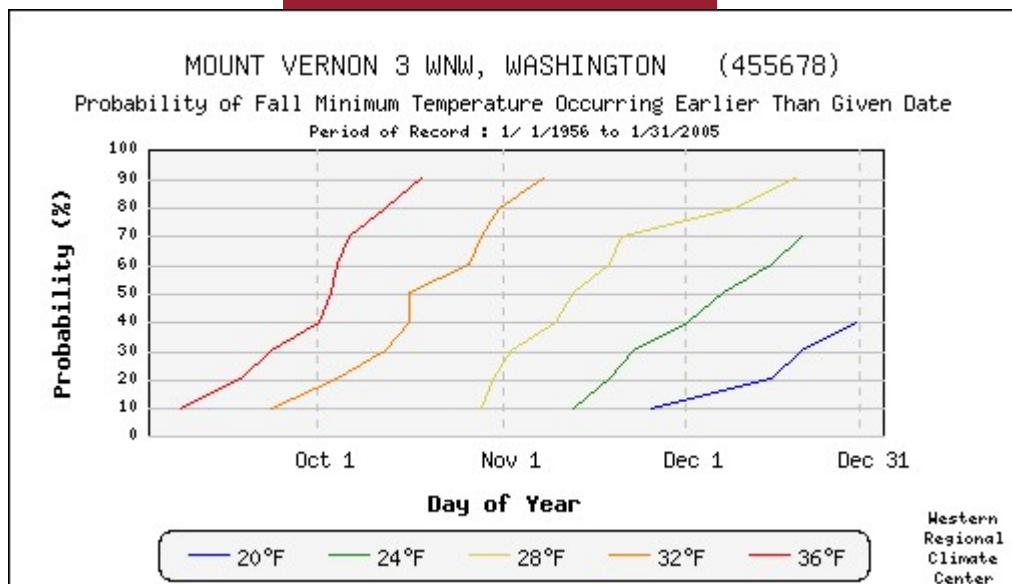
FROST FREE DAYS:

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.

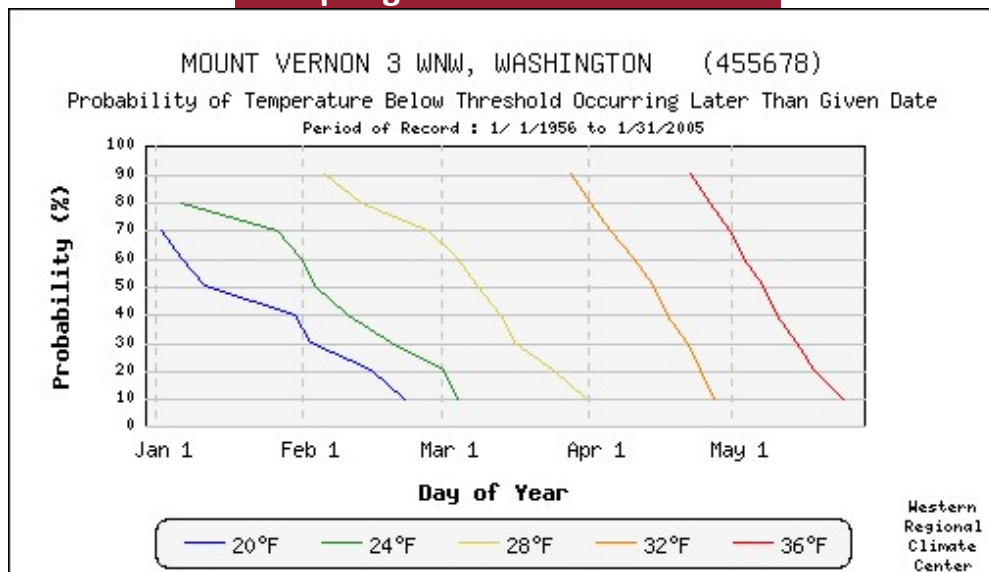


Photography by Don McMoran

Fall Freeze Probabilities



Spring Freeze Probabilities



IRRIGATION

In June, July and August, irrigation was used on approximately 20,000 acres of cropland in 2021. This was a new record for Skagit County due to drought conditions. 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.

I  FARMERS

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						
1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2020
43,273	52,381	64,138	79,555	102,300	116,910	130,575

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

Washington State Minimum Wage	
Effective Date	Dollars per Hour
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
January 1, 2019	12.00
January 1, 2020	13.50
January 1, 2021	13.69

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 2021 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

2021 provided good reviews for blackberries. Warmer winter temperatures increased fruit production. Prices are slowly recovering. 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 two bulb-growing farms in the region. 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 2021 largely for the disease suppression that brassica crops provide via biofumigation.



CHICKENS AND EGGS

Washington is ranked 19th in the nation for egg production (Source: 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. These two farms account for hundreds of millions of eggs being produced in Skagit County and Washington State.

In 2021, the retail price for a dozen eggs in the United States was 1.79 U.S. dollars. Egg prices in the United States peaked in 2015, when a dozen eggs cost 2.75 U.S. dollars on average. • [U.S. retail price of eggs 2021 | Statista](#)

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 the United States, the price for a pound of fresh whole chicken cost consumers an average of just over one U.S. dollar and a half in 2021, which constituted a slight decrease from a price peak in 2020. • [U.S. retail price of fresh chicken 2021 | Statista](#)



CUCUMBERS

The lone large scale commercial 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.”



Photo by Don McMoran

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 2021. There were over 2000 acres of potatoes that were not harvested in 2021 based on heavy rains late in the harvest season.



RASPBERRIES

The majority of raspberry acreage in Skagit County is now harvested by hand for the fresh market due to a major reduction in raspberry production for processing beginning in 2017 and a switch from raspberry to blueberry production. The main varieties are Meeker and Willamette. Washington produces about 75% of the total U.S. production of frozen red raspberries, and 95% of that is from Whatcom County.



Spinach Seed Field– Photo by Don McMoran



Beet Seed Field– Photo by Don McMoran



Cabbage Seed Field– Photo by Don McMoran

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/variety 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 below average in 2021 due to hotter and drier weather.

Cabbage seed harvest was above average due to hotter and drier weather conditions in the 2021 growing season.

There are nine vegetable seed companies in Skagit County: Sakata, Illinois Foundation, 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.



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 decreasing in Skagit County, due to difficulty securing labor. More growers are changing varieties to capture more of the fresh market by producing ever-bearing strawberries and using innovative technologies to increase the length of the season.



WINE GRAPES

The marine climate in the Skagit Valley 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.



Photo by Don McMoran

ORGANIC FARMING

Organic production continues to grow in Skagit County is valued at more than thirty million dollars 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 600 students have been educated on organic/sustainable agricultural production.

2021 Skagit County Milk Production Data

Table 1.

Year	Number of Dairies		Total Pounds	Uniform Average	Total # Milk Cows
	Start of Year	End of Year	Milk Produced	Milk Price/ cwt*	Skagit Inventory
2021	22	20	216,921,976	\$16.64	15,000
2020	26	23	255,033,223	\$15.57	15,500
2019	30	26	262,945,486	\$16.76	15,000
2018	30	29	279,152,302	\$14.83	14,700
2017	30	30	279,118,178	\$16.16	14,500
2016	30	30	277,208,444	\$14.67	14,500
2015	29	30	287,906,784	\$15.59	14,000
2014	29	29	299,584,645	\$22.66	13,500
2013	30	29	280,182,987	\$18.84	13,000
2012	31	30	270,573,960	\$17.20	14,100
2011	30	31	336,923,400	\$19.20	13,900
2010	29	30	264,944,400	\$15.42	13,600

* Weighted Average Uniform Price = Class III milk price + producer price differential.

Table 2. 2021

Month	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	Total WA Dairies
January	19,107,161	\$14.68	\$2,804,931	22	279
February	16,912,361	\$14.43	\$2,440,454	22	278
March	19,021,492	\$15.15	\$2,881,756	22	278
April	18,510,527	\$16.28	\$3,013,514	22	276
May	19,110,054	\$17.26	\$3,298,395	21	272
June	18,471,233	\$17.32	\$3,199,218	21	272
July	18,750,636	\$16.77	\$3,144,482	21	273
August	18,549,633	\$16.47	\$3,055,125	21	272
September	17,585,063	\$16.67	\$2,931,430	20	269
October	17,315,160	\$17.13	\$2,966,087	20	265
November	16,512,934	\$18.38	\$3,035,077	20	264
December	17,075,722	\$19.12	\$3,264,878	20	264
TOTALS	216,921,976	\$16.64	\$36,035,346	21	272



Photo by Don McMoran

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

Sources:

2021 Washington Annual Agriculture Bulletin, USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Northwest Regional Field Office.

2021 Pacific Northwest Federal Milk Marketing Order, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Dairy Programs.

VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (ACRES)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Total Clark	Total Clallam	Total Cowlitz	Total Island	Total Jefferson	Total Lewis	Total Snohomish	Total Whatcom	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit									
2021	319	416	1841	142	2718	300	30	250	75	10	125	500	100	4108
2020	300	200	1500	40	2,040	350	30	250	75	10	150	650	80	3635
*2019	345	189	2045	45	2624	344	32	251	62	NA	116	643	70	4110
*2018	598	271	2036	67	2972	35	35	493	57	10	176	766	94	4638
*2017	486	260	1956	17	2719	NA	NA	NA	67	10	300	742	54	3892
*2016	581	236	1260	45	2122	NA	NA	NA	73	10	300	507	45	3057
*2015	609	250	1227	25	2111	NA	NA	NA	56	10	250	503	43	2973
*2014	734	202	1622	20	2578	NA	NA	NA	50	10	200	252	30	3120
*2013	1005	322	2139	25	3491	NA	NA	NA	59	1	NA	479	50	4080
*2012	733	388	1847	50	3018	NA	NA	NA	44	1	NA	531	57	3651
*2011	668	339	1454	68	2529	NA	NA	NA	76	1	NA	235	NA	2841
*2010	512	495	1619	44	2670	NA	NA	NA	46	1	NA	384	NA	3101
*2009	305	433	1631	75	2444	NA	NA	NA	70	NA	NA	315	NA	2829
*2008	457	381	1456	20	2314	NA	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	367	NA	2741
*2007	530	400	1493	80	2503	NA	NA	NA	73	NA	NA	272	26	2874
*2006	519	352	1680	69	2620	NA	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	458	NA	3138
2003	316	93	790	20	1219	NA	45	-	34	10	-	272	93	1673

Beginning in 2006 production numbers are based on "Pinned" acres by seed company representation at WSU NWREC on March 1st and June 1st. In 2020 pinning moved to electronic format by the Western Washington Small Seed Advisory Committee (WWSSAC)

VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (DOLLARS)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Clark	Clallam	Cowlitz	Island	Jeffer-son	Lewis	Snoho-mish	What-com	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit									
2021	797,500	2,080,000	5,523,000	426,000	8,826,500	1,000,000	90,000	700,000	700,000	100,000	375,000	2,500,000	500,000	14,791,500
2020	900,000	1,000,000	4,500,000	120,000	6,520,000	1,050,000	90,000	750,000	750,000	100,000	450,000	3,250,000	800,000	13,760,000
2019	1,035,000	1,890,000	6,135,000	135,000	9,195,000	1,032,000	144,000	753,000	620,000	NA	464,000	3,215,000	700,000	16,123,000
2018	1,794,000	2,710,000	6,108,000	201,000	10,813,000	227,500	175,000	1,479,000	570,000	100,000	528,000	4,100,000	470,000	18,462,500
2017	1,458,000	2,598,000	5,868,000	51,000	9,975,000	NA	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	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	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	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	NA	292,500	2,500	NA	2,395,000	250,000	11,794,500
2012	1,899,000	1,940,000	5,541,000	75,000	9,455,000	NA	NA	NA	217,500	1,500	NA	1,703,000	388,500	11,765,500
2011	2,004,000	1,693,500	4,847,000	102,000	8,646,500	NA	NA	NA	381,500	1,500	NA	705,000	NA	9,734,500
2010	1,536,000	2,473,500	4,857,000	132,000	8,998,500	NA	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	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	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	NA	219,000	NA	NA	527,700	78,000	5,335,590
2006	519,000	352,800	1,680,000	39,000	2,590,800	NA	NA	NA	180,450	NA	NA	458,000	120,300	3,349,550
2003	560,507	346,429	828,369	62,550	1,797,855	NA	269,907	-	183,771	8,025	-	437,676	133,782	2,831,016

SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY *

CROP	2021	2020	2010	2000	1990
Apples ⁽¹⁾	150	100	100	373	103
Blackberries	500	500	60	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	4,750	4,500	1,200	625	xxx
Brussels Sprouts	2050	2000	10	n/a	n/a
Carrots (processing)	0	0	200	800	468
Cucumbers (processing)	450	500	1000	2,396	1,900
Beans	2500	2000	1	n/a	n/a
Field Crops ⁽²⁾	34,000	34,000	35,000	22,650	33,050
Grass Seed	2500	2000	650	1,081	xxx
Misc. Crops ⁽³⁾	4,000	4,000	4,000	3,623	665
Peas (processing)	0	0	0	7,233	14,880
Potatoes	12,000	12,000	10,500	9,500	7,250
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	420
Raspberries	250	300	1,300	1,441	xxx
Strawberries	450	500	475	390	615
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	0	0	616
Vegetable Seed ⁽⁴⁾	2,718	2,040	2,669.7	3,800	3,375



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

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 21.

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/>

STATISTICAL SUMMARIES: * Dollar Value to Producer					
Crop	2021	2020	2010	2000	1990
Apples ⁽¹⁾	150,000	150,000	200,000	865,200	592,250
Blackberries	1,750,000	1,500,000	30,000	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	24,000,000	22,500,000	6,000,000	3,011,646	xxx
Brussels Sprouts	10,500,000	10,000,000	50,000	n/a	n/a
Carrots processing)	0	0	600,000	985,600	493,794
Cucumbers (processing)	400,000	500,000	1,500,000	5,220,773	4,944,034
Dairy (milk sold)	36,035,346	39,626,975	40,854,426	43,895,519	53,122,168
Beans	3,500,000	3,000,000	1,500	n/a	n/a
Eggs and Fryers ⁽²⁾	28,000,000	27,500,000	25,000,000	12,309,000	14,016,877
Field Crops ⁽³⁾	37,500,000	35,000,000	30,000,000	9,423,600	12,844,718
Grass Seed	3,500,000	3,000,000	487,500	545,000	xxx
Livestock	13,000,000	12,500,000	7,500,000	8,123,000	4,400,000
Misc.Crops ⁽⁴⁾	37,000,000	35,000,000	20,000,000	16,944,598	2,046,600
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	57,000,000	55,000,000	50,000,000	56,207,469	24,000,000
Peas (processing)	0	0	0	3,044,092	5,640,903
Potatoes	65,000,000	60,000,000	52,500,000	52,725,000	33,746,600
Raspberries/ Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	1,179,450
Raspberries	850,000	900,000	8,400,000	4,143,347	xxx
Strawberries	1,500,000	1,750,000	2,500,000	2,725,643	2,496,280
Sweet Corn (processing)	0	0	0	0	187,828
Vegetable Seed ⁽⁵⁾	8,826,500	6,520,000	10,380,750	7,566,503	3,144,352
TOTALS	328,511,846	314,446,975	256,004,176	227,735,900	162,855,854



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 21.
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).*

2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE County Profile



Skagit County Washington



Total and Per Farm Overview, 2017 and change since 2012

	2017	% change since 2012
Number of farms	1,041	-3
Land in farms (acres)	97,664	-8
Average size of farm (acres)	94	-5
Total	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	287,096,000	+5
Government payments	407,000	-72
Farm-related income	7,400,000	+10
Total farm production expenses	250,953,000	-1
Net cash farm income	43,951,000	+57
Per farm average	(\$)	
Market value of products sold	275,789	+9
Government payments		
(average per farm receiving)	5,029	-59
Farm-related income	18,363	+10
Total farm production expenses	241,069	+3
Net cash farm income	42,220	+62

Farms by Value of Sales

	Number	Percent of Total ^a
Less than \$2,500	563	54
\$2,500 to \$4,999	113	11
\$5,000 to \$9,999	75	7
\$10,000 to \$24,999	87	8
\$25,000 to \$49,999	37	4
\$50,000 to \$99,999	37	4
\$100,000 or more	129	12

Farms by Size

	Number	Percent of Total ^a
1 to 9 acres	387	37
10 to 49 acres	401	39
50 to 179 acres	158	15
180 to 499 acres	46	4
500 to 999 acres	32	3
1,000 + acres	17	2

3 Percent of state agriculture sales

Share of Sales by Type (%)

Crops	67
Livestock, poultry, and products	33

Land in Farms by Use (%) ^a

Cropland	67
Pastureland	12
Woodland	12
Other	9

Acres irrigated: 23,544

24% of land in farms

Land Use Practices (% of farms)

No till	4
Reduced till	3
Intensive till	12
Cover crop	10

Skagit County
Washington, 2017
Page 2

2017 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE County Profile

Market Value of Agricultural Products Sold

	Sales (\$1,000)	Rank in State ^b	Counties Producing Item	Rank in U.S. ^b	Counties Producing Item
Total	287,096	9	39	277	3,077
Crops	191,167	10	39	149	3,073
Grains, oilseeds, dry beans, dry peas	5,733	15	33	1,591	2,916
Tobacco	-	-	-	-	323
Cotton and cottonseed	-	-	-	-	647
Vegetables, melons, potatoes, sweet potatoes	86,674	4	38	40	2,821
Fruits, tree nuts, berries	21,905	13	39	107	2,748
Nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, sod	73,606	1	37	38	2,601
Cultivated Christmas trees, short rotation woody crops	58	17	30	356	1,384
Other crops and hay	3,192	17	39	801	3,040
Livestock, poultry, and products	95,929	9	39	536	3,073
Poultry and eggs	(D)	9	39	(D)	3,007
Cattle and calves	9,778	16	39	1,266	3,055
Milk from cows	59,506	5	29	145	1,892
Hogs and pigs	74	14	39	988	2,856
Sheep, goats, wool, mohair, milk	174	21	39	888	2,984
Horses, ponies, mules, burros, donkeys	239	17	39	853	2,970
Aquaculture	(D)	4	33	21	1,251
Other animals and animal products	(D)	(D)	39	(D)	2,878

Total Producers ^c

Sex	1,838
Male	1,044
Female	794

Age

<35	131
35 - 64	1,039
65 and older	668

Race

American Indian/Alaska Native	9
Asian	20
Black or African American	3
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	-
White	1,790
More than one race	16

Other characteristics

Hispanic, Latino, Spanish origin	39
With military service	225
New and beginning farmers	441

Percent of farms that:

Have internet access **83**

Farm organically **5**

Sell directly to consumers **18**

Hire farm labor **25**

Are family farms **96**

Top Crops in Acres ^d

Forage (hay/haylage), all	16,052
Vegetables harvested, all	13,792
Potatoes	9,896
Corn for silage or greenchop	8,046
Barley for grain	4,993

Livestock Inventory (Dec 31, 2017)

Broilers and other meat-type chickens	(D)
Cattle and calves	29,525
Goats	613
Hogs and pigs	211
Horses and ponies	1,528
Layers	13,686
Pullets	2,872
Sheep and lambs	1,243
Turkeys	458

See 2017 Census of Agriculture, U.S. Summary and State Data, for complete footnotes, explanations, definitions, commodity descriptions, and methodology.

^a May not add to 100% due to rounding. ^b Among counties whose rank can be displayed. ^c Data collected for a maximum of four producers per farm. ^d Crop commodity names may be shortened; see full names at www.nass.usda.gov/go/croponames.pdf. ^e Position below the line does not indicate rank. (D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations. (NA) Not available. (Z) Less than half of the unit shown. (-) Represents zero.



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service

www.nass.usda.gov/AgCensus

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COMMERCIAL CROPS GROWN IN SKAGIT COUNTY

Fruit

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

Tree Fruit

Apple
Asian pear*
Cherry*
Hasselnut/Filbert
Peach*
Pear*
Plum*
Quince*

Vegetables

Artichoke
Asparagus and asparagus root*
Basil*
Bean
Beet*

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

Turnip*
Winter squash

Seed Crops - Vegetable

Arugula
Broccoli-raab
Brussels sprouts
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 bean
Pinto bean
Red 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
Marijuana
Sod
Tea*

*Less than ten acres



ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES SERVING SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURE

Agrilink Foods	Skagit Dairy Women
Bank of the Pacific	Skagit Farmers Supply
Banner Bank	Skagit Seed Services
Bio Huma Netics, Inc.	Skagit Valley Red Potato Growers Assn.
Brim Tractor	Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland
Cascadian Farms	Small Fruit Advisory Committee
Conway Feed	Sustainable Connections
Cucumber Industry Advisory Committee	Syngenta Seeds, Inc.
Farm Service Administration	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
Farmers Equipment Company	USDA Farm Service Agency
Gielow Pickles	Tree Fruit Industry Advisory Committee
Harmony Dairy	Twin City Foods
Illinois Foundation Seed Company	Valley Pride Sales
Natural Resources Conservation Service	Vikima Seed USA
Northwest Ag Business Center	Viva Farms
Northwest Agricultural Research Foundation	WA Blueberry Commission
Northwest Bulb Growers	WA Lettuce & Vegetable Co.
Northwest Farm Credit Services	WA Red Raspberry Commission
Northwest Food Processors Association	WA Seed Potato Commission
Pape Tractor	WA State Dairy Federation
Peoples Bank	WA State Potato Commission
Puget Sound Seed Growers Association	Western WA Agricultural Association
Rabo Bank	Western WA Fruit Research Foundation
Rijk Zwaan Seed	Western WA Small Seed Advisory Committee
Sakata Seed Company	Wilbur Ellis Company
Sakuma Bros.	WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern
Schafer Agriculture Services	Washington Research & Extension Center
Skagit Conservation District	WSU Clallam County Extension
Skagit County Cattlemen's Association	WSU Clark County Extension
Skagit County Dairy Federation	WSU Jefferson County Extension
Skagit County Farm Bureau	WSU Skagit County Extension
Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program	WSU Whatcom County Extension
Skagit County Horticultural Pest Board	

***We wish to express our appreciation to the
following for their assistance in the gathering of
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Capital Press
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Economic Development Alliance of Skagit County
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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 Brothers Farm
Sakata Seed Company
Schafer Ag Services, LLC
Seminis Vegetable Seed Co.
Skagit Farmers Supply
Skagit Seed Services
Skagit Select
Skagit Valley Herald
Skagit Valley Farms

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
Wilbur Ellis Company
WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington
Research and Extension Center



Thank You

Photo by Dr. Gary Brown