



Clallam/Jefferson/Kitsap County
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Regional Small Farms



REGIONAL SMALL FARMS: PROGRAM REPORT 2021

BY THE NUMBERS

- **2021 Total Class Attendee Numbers:**
293 participants took part in 12 Regional Small Farms class offerings.
 - ⇒ Cultivating Success 2021: 41 farms participated in the "Is A Small Farm in Your Future" and 53 farms participated in "Agricultural Entrepreneurship" class series.
 - ⇒ Partnered with North Olympic Development Council to deliver 7 classes focused on farm business, leases, e-commerce and marketing strategy topics, with a total of 118 participants.
 - ⇒ Hosted three online Dirt Talk events focused on Integrated Pest Management topics, with a total of 81 participants.
- **Technical Assistance:** Provided one-on-one technical assistance to over 150 farmers in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties.
 - ⇒ 20 farms assisted with one-on-one support in pest identification and management issues, with 7 on farm visits to help diagnose issues.

ISSUE

The WSU Regional Small Farms program serves Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties and strives to support a thriving food and farming sector in our region.

Comparing past Agriculture Census data, we have seen a continued trend in the number of farms increasing while the size of farms has decreased in the counties served by the program. In 2017, there was a reported 698 farms in Kitsap County with the average farm size being 13 acres. In Clallam County, there was a reported 528 farms with an average size of 33 acres, and in Jefferson County a reported 221 farms with an average of 62 acres.

In 2021, the program saw an increase in farming needs, to include more pest identification and management questions, as well as the need for a livestock specialist to support farmers.

This trend has created a need for more small farm education, experiential opportunities and resources. In 2021, the program saw an increase in farming needs to include more pest identification and management assistance, as well as the need for a livestock specialist to support area farmers.

RESPONSE

WSU Regional Small Farms has actively been responding and supporting new and beginning farmers needs as well as strategizing how to continue to provide exceptional programming and services to farmers in our area. In 2021, Jefferson County was able to continue to support a full time regional coordinator for the program. Kitsap was able to provide a part-time support staff for the county and Clallam was able to add a regional Integrated Pest Management specialist to the team. In addition, Clallam County was able to secure funding to hire a new livestock specialist to assist in the Regional Small Farms program starting in 2022.

[extension.wsu.edu/
regionalsmallfarms/](https://extension.wsu.edu/regional-small-farms/)

Kellie Henwood, Regional Small Farms Coordinator (Jefferson) - kellie.henwood@wsu.edu
Jess Sappington, Food Systems Program Coordinator (Kitsap)- jess.sappington@wsu.edu
Laurel Moulton, Regional IPM Specialist (Clallam) - laurel.moulton@wsu.edu



IMPACTS

In 2021, the Regional Small Farms Program was able to continue providing educational opportunities and resources to small farms in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties, both virtually and in person. Some highlights for the year include:

- Continued a partnership with the WSU State-wide Food Systems team to provide virtual Cultivating Success classes including the "Is a Small Farm in Your Future" and "Agricultural Entrepreneurship" series.
- Hosted seven individual workshops online as part of a grant in partnership with the North Olympic Development Council. Workshops were focused on farm business, leases, e-commerce and marketing strategy topics.
- Continued to offer its quarterly farmer networking educational opportunities called Dirt Talks. Events (solely offered online during COVID) that provide space for area farmers to come together and discuss topics of interest. Events are led by expert farmers or specialists willing to share their skills with their peers.
- Continued to provide administrative support for the Kitsap Food Systems Round Table network, comprised of eight organizations. A new working group for farmland preservation in Kitsap formed in 2021.
- Continued coordination of the Kitsap Farm Mentor Program, providing approved farm mentors support in their collective instruction and hands on learning to farm interns.
- A new Farmer Technical Assistance Request form was created and housed on the Regional Small Farms website as easy access for farmers requesting assistance. Staff from all three counties were able to provide one-on-one technical assistance to over 150 farmers across Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap.
- Provide one-on-one support and resources to farmers interested in taking Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP) as part of their farm stand or CSA business.
- Continued to facilitate the Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative, a group of organizations that provide resources to help keep working lands viable. LandWorks was approached by a 180-acre historic farm in Quilcene to help find the next farm owner(s) and collaborative partners launched a Request for Proposal application and process focusing on equitable access to land. After over 60 applicants from around the county, a thorough vetting process, multiple site visits, and intensive resource support to applicants a group of farmers was selected to purchase the farm.
- Presented in partnership with the Production Alliance, WSU participated in The 19th Annual Jefferson County Farm Tour steering committee. The self-guided tour had over 1,200 visitors over two days and showcased eight host farms open to the public and eight virtual farms. More than \$5,000 in donations were raised to support the 20th Annual Farm Tour.
- Facilitated a cohort of four farms in Clallam and Jefferson counties as part of the "Know Your Cost to Grow" pilot program. The program is designed to help diversified vegetable farmers determine crop specific costs of production, particularly focused on labor cost accounting. Understanding costs of production can provide important insights into changes farmers can make to their production systems, pricing and crop mix that will increase overall profits. Know Your Cost to Grow was developed by Oregon State University Center for Small Farms and Community Food Systems and Oregon Tilth through funding from the USDA's National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

- **Eat Local First Local Food Marketing Campaign:**

In 2021, the Eat Local First Olympic Peninsula chapter successfully organized a *Find A CSA* campaign, *September Eat Local Month*, and an *Eat Local Holiday Campaign*. In addition, WSU staff assisted dozens of farm businesses to get listed on the statewide Eat Local First Food and Farm Finder online map, a critical tool that combined multiple local food directories into one that connects consumers and buyers to local food. Currently there are 216 total listings: in Jefferson (85), Clallam (84), Kitsap (47). During 2021, user traffic by county showed that out of the entire state users from our region ranked as follows: #8 for Clallam, #10 Kitsap and #13 for Jefferson county. In addition, the program distributed nearly 10,000 rack cards throughout the two counties at various locations, including visitor centers, etc. to help promote the use of the three.

- 1) our Holiday & CSA Campaigns reached over 2 million people
- 2) our Social media platforms had a combined reach of 70,000
- 3) we launched quarterly consumer e-newsletter in March, 2021

