Introduction and History

Twin Vista Ranch sits on a 26-acre site on the Olympic Peninsula’s Marrowstone Island. Lisa Painter donated the farm to Washington State University and the Jefferson County Land Trust in 1994 after her partner, Jeanne Clendenon, passed away in 2011. Lisa wanted to reflect on their end product. Nash started farming in 1994 with his wife on 10 acres. They currently lease and farm over 450 acres. Their approach is to lease and not own, dedicating most of their efforts to the local climate and society.

Responsibilities

During this internship my responsibilities were to be adaptable, because on a farm projects can change day to day. The day usually started with feeding all the animals, some animals had to be bottle-fed, like calves born twins that were rejected by their mother. As a routine all the animals were checked for injuries or disease and their surroundings for any safety concerns. The rest of the day was dedicated to projects around the farm. Twin Vista Ranch had a lot of maintenance, weeding and repairs, just as you would expect on any working farm, and the projects were divided between the various departments. For example the seasonal hay was cut and baled, and the hay barn was cleaned out a portion of the hay barn to make room for more hay. The days always started with feeding all the animals. Some animals had to be bottle-fed, like calves born twins that were rejected by their mother.

Summary

What I will take away from this experience is how much dedication, hard work and continuing knowledge it takes to run an organic farm. It is definitely a lifestyle that requires around-the-clock attention but this also makes it a rewarding experience. Having a crop that you completely tended to all season long and seeing their growth and development brings a great sense of achievement. 

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