



## The Future of Farming

Today's farmers are marketers, managers and mechanics. They're scientists, business professionals, and innovators. They're experts on crops, animals, pests, and regulations. They plan festivals, create corn mazes, and invite the public to visit or stay at their farm. It's up to the rest of us to make sure they stay in business. Because what would a drive in the country be like without the beauty of farmland?



## Snohomish County: Preserving our Roots, Planting our Future



Snohomish County  
Focus on Farming

*Did you know...?*

*"Agriculture is evolving. Sixty years ago, dairies dotted the landscape. Now, niche farming is growing, and we've diversified. We've added U-Pick vegetables, compost, and canola for biodiesel. Farmers still feed the hungry of the world, preserve farmland and open space, but now we're providing energy, too."*

*Cliff, Don & Ann Bailey, Bailand Farms (former dairy), Bailey Compost*



*"The real cost of food is not what people pay at the big-box stores. There are hidden costs that we all pay when we buy cheap imports. Local food may seem to cost more, but when people buy local, they put their trust in a local family farmer to provide safe, nutritious, and healthy food."*

Neil Landaas, Flying Tomato Farm Manager, Snohomish County Farmers Markets

### For more information:

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org) – Search "Focus on Farming."

### Production Notes:

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## *Snohomish County: A Rich Farming Heritage*

*"Since the mid-1800s, farmers have been drawn to Snohomish County's fertile soil and ideal climate. Twenty years ago, we had twice as much farmland as we do today. But, together with entrepreneurial farmers and innovative programs, we're revitalizing our farm community, preserving farmland for future generations."*

Aaron Reardon  
Snohomish County Executive



## *A Changing Industry*

Since the 1970s, much of Snohomish County's farmland has been converted to single-family homes or commercial development. Land is more expensive, while food is cheaper than ever before. Some of our food comes from other countries – countries that don't have the strong food safety standards that we have in the U.S.

*Do you know where your food comes from?*



## *Local Farms and Products*

Nurseries have replaced dairies as the number one agricultural sector. Horses are abundant, and biofuel crops and on-farm tourism are growing quickly.

Specialty crops, from grass-fed beef to organic salad greens, are the new face of farming. These and other products can be found in restaurants, at farm stands, and at farmers markets. Honey, jams and other locally made farm goods are becoming more plentiful.



*"The best food you can feed your family is right in your own backyard. Our family heritage is on this farm. We're tied to the land and we appreciate and respect nature and the environment around us. As a farmer, it's very satisfying to know we're providing healthy and safe food to local people."*

Bobbi Lindemulder  
West Valley Beef



*"Buying local products helps local farmers stay in business. Farm land is expensive and often prohibitive. When farmers stay in business, the quality of life we enjoy in Snohomish County is preserved, a safe, nutritious food supply is more abundant, and our local economy grows."*

Peter Alden  
Alden Farms  
Former technology professional

