

**JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Adiel McKnight, Executive Assistant

DATE: September 19, 2022

SUBJECT: PROCLAMATION re: Proclaiming the Month of September, 2022 as Olympic Peninsula Eat Local First Month

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Presented by the Eat Local First Olympic Peninsula chapter, Eat Local Month in September is a month-long celebration of local farms and food in Clallam and Jefferson Counties. We invite the community to connect with local food by experiencing the abundance of what is grown, raised, harvested and made right here on the North Olympic Peninsula. Throughout the month, each day of the week will feature businesses and organizations committed to engaging community members about local food resources and availability, including farmers/producers, local grocers, eating local on a budget, restaurants, farmers markets, seafood producers and more.

The broader Eat Local First collaborative campaign strengthens Olympic Peninsula farms and producers by engaging the community through education, promotion and access to build a diverse, equitable and vibrant local food economy. Our goal is to help build market demand and increase access to locally grown and produced food through targeted strategies to engage certain sectors of the community, including low-income and rural communities, institutional purchasers and culinary professionals.

Eat Local Month partners include Jefferson County Farmers Market Association, North Olympic Development Council, North Olympic Land Trust. Olympic Culinary Loop, Port Angeles Farmers Market, Port Townsend Food Coop, Port Townsend Leader, Sequim Market, Washington State University Extension Regional Small Farms Program and The Local Food Trust.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION:

We recommend the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners support this mission and campaign by proclaiming September 2022 as Eat Local Month to help bring public awareness and engagement of our local food economy on the North Olympic Peninsula.

REVIEWED BY:


Mark McCauley, County Administrator

9/15/22
Date

PROCLAMATION

EAT LOCAL MONTH

WHEREAS, the Salish Sea region has provided a rich bounty of local foods from both the water and the land, which has been stewarded by the S'Klallam people and other visiting tribes since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, WA. is home to clean streams, shellfish beds and marine waters as well as fertile valleys and lush forests in a temperate climate- all of which contribute to the diverse and abundant wild and cultivated foods available here; and

WHEREAS, since the 19th century, this region has been home to many farms producing a wide range of crops for local consumption as well as for sale throughout the Puget Sound region and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, WA. residents seek locally grown, produced, and harvested food products for many reasons including good nutrition, to live in a more sustainable way for our environment, and to support our local economy and communities; and

WHEREAS, myriad local organizations have worked together for 16 years under the umbrella of the Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative to preserve hundreds of acres of prime farmland, support environmental restoration, assist in sustainable business planning and encourage local investment; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, WA. has seen ongoing economic growth in the food and farm sector, which provides employment and keeps more dollars recirculating in the local economy; and

WHEREAS, local food production leads to greater resilience in food security and reduction of the carbon footprint of our food supply; and

WHEREAS, eating more Jefferson County-grown foods helps preserve Jefferson County's rural, working landscape and the way of life we cherish; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County, WA. strives to ensure all of our residents have access to healthy, local food regardless of income; and

WHEREAS, supporting farmer's markets, grocers, restaurants and institutional buyers who support Jefferson County's local farmers, producers and fisheries also helps contribute to all of the above; and

WHEREAS, Jefferson County 20th annual Farm Tour is September 16-18, 2022; and

NOW, THEREFORE, the Jefferson County Board of County Commissioners Proclaim September, 2022;

EAT LOCAL MONTH

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED, that the Board of Commissioners urge all citizens to join them in encouraging residents and visitors alike to join in celebrating Eat Local First Olympic Peninsula's "Eat Local Month" campaign and hereby proclaim, September 2022, Jefferson County Eat Local Month.

PROCLAIMED this 19th day of September, 2022.

JEFFERSON COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SEAL:

Heidi Eisenhour, Chair

ATTEST:

Kate Dean, Member

Carolyn Gallaway, Clerk of the Board

Greg Brotherton, Member