

**JEFFERSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**AGENDA REQUEST**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

**FROM:** Kelli Henwood, WSU Jefferson Small Farms Coordinator

**DATE:** June 26, 2023

**SUBJECT:** **WORKSHOP** re: 2023 Overview and Update of Regional Small Farms  
Program Activity to include Food Access Programs

---

**STATEMENT OF ISSUE:**

Kellie Henwood, the WSU Jefferson County Small Farms Coordinator would like to make a presentation to the Commissioners that showcases the ongoing work of the Washington State University Extension Regional Small Farms Program and its positive impact to the agricultural community.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are no current budget impacts or requests at this time.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Commissioners will hear an update on the Regional Small Farms Programs and provide questions and comments as needed.

**REVIEWED BY:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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



## REGIONAL SMALL FARMS PROGRAM

2022

### BY THE NUMBERS

- A total of 115 farmers provided technical assistance
- 10 total Class/Educational offerings in 2022 (5 virtual events, 1 ten-week Cultivating Success course and 4 in person farm walks)
- A total of 160 attendees accessed online and in person classes

### QUOTES



Nice to have an in-person Dirt Talk and really be able to see what other farmers are doing and how their crops are responding. Can be a challenge at times with the online format"

- Farm Walk Attendee



So glad to have attended. I appreciated the encouragement tempered with realism throughout the event, and I'm looking forward to signing up for more on this topic."

- Farm Walk Attendee

### 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 data, there is a trend in the number of farms increasing in our region while the size of those farms has continued to decrease. 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.

The increase in the number of farms in our region has created a need for more small farm education, technical assistance, experiential opportunities,

and resources for our area farmers. In 2022, the program saw an increase in farming needs to include more pest identification and management assistance as well as the need for livestock technical assistance. Additionally, it was noted that farmers began to want more in person opportunities for learning and networking.

### RESPONSE

WSU Regional Small Farms has actively been supporting new and beginning farmers needs as well as strategizing how to continue to provide exceptional programming and services across our region. In 2022, Jefferson County was able to continue to support a full-time regional small farms coordinator for the program. Kitsap County was able to continue to provide a full-time food systems coordinator working with the program. Clallam County was able to continue supporting a part-time integrated pest management specialist to the team and secure funding to hire a new livestock specialist that started in early 2022 serving the region.

---

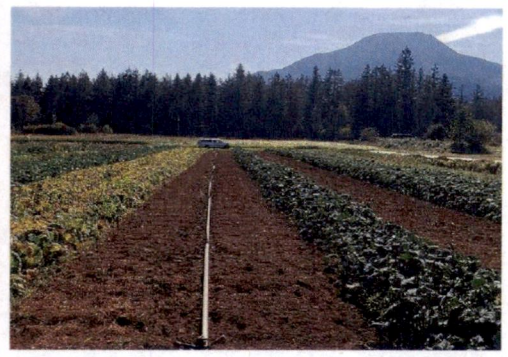
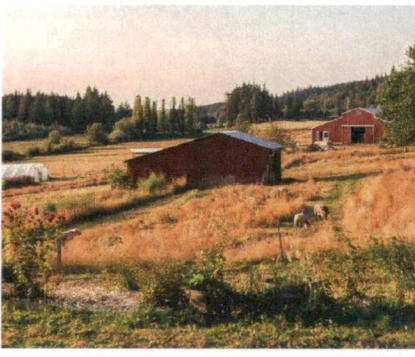
*The increase in the number of farms in our region has created a need for more small farm education, technical assistance, experiential opportunities, and resources for our area farmers.*

---

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

Kellie Henwood, Regional Small Farms Coordinator (Jefferson) - [kellie.henwood@wsu.edu](mailto:kellie.henwood@wsu.edu)  
Jess Sappington, Food Systems Program Coordinator (Kitsap)- [jess.sappington@wsu.edu](mailto:jess.sappington@wsu.edu)





## IMPACTS

In 2022, 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 from the year include:

- Delivered five online educational events. Topics included: Downy Mildew, Slugs & Snails, Agritourism, and Meet Your Livestock Specialist (2 events).
- Launched new in-person farm walk opportunities called Dirt Talk Farm Walks. Facilitated a total of four farmer hosted events connecting farmers on topics such as: High Tunnel Production, Low-till for Small Farms, Meat Goat Production & Pasture Management, and Collaborative Farm Enterprises and Land Sharing.
- Offered regional participation and facilitation for 12- week Cultivating Success Whole Farm Planning course. Farmers were provided instruction, resources and networking to build a solid plan for their farming or food related business.
- Engaged a total of 160 farmer participants in Regional Small Farms class and event offerings across Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties.
- Provided technical assistance to 115 farmers across Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties. Assistance was delivered in person, via phone and through email. The top inquiries for 2022 included:
  - ⇒ Integrated Pest Management
  - ⇒ Animal Agriculture
  - ⇒ Crop Production & Soils
  - ⇒ Access to Land & Farmland Succession
  - ⇒ Farm Business Planning
- Provided additional assistance and partnerships in community events such as:
  - ⇒ Jefferson Farm Tour
  - ⇒ The Sawtooth Ranch Guided Tour
  - ⇒ Two Bears Garden Tour
  - ⇒ Lavender Connection Essential Oil Extraction
  - ⇒ Clallam County Harvest Festival
  - ⇒ The Western Meat School

## Additional Projects:

- Provided farmers resources through Small Farms website and monthly agriculture focused newsletter.
- Acquired certification and began planning for Produce Safety Producer Trainings 2023.
- Provided farm-to-school technical assistance to partners in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap counties.
- Administered Kitsap Farm Mentor Program - supporting 8 farmers through group class offerings.
- Provided support and technical assistance in food access programming to Farmers Markets & Farm Stands.
- Supported continued expansion and outreach of Eat Local First marketing campaign and online farm directory.
- In conjunction with North Olympic Development Council and the Olympic Peninsula Visitor Bureau provided 9 farms and both Clallam farmers markets with professional photos for use in marketing their businesses.
- Conducted on-farm sweet potato trials with 7 farms across the region.
- Coordinated visit with specialist Dr. Chakradhar Mattupalli and Dr. Lisa DeVetter to tour 3 blueberry farms located in Kitsap and Clallam Counties.
- Acted in an administration, facilitation and/or advisory capacity for multiple community partnerships/groups, including:
  - ⇒ Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative
  - ⇒ Know Your Cost to Grow Program
  - ⇒ Kitsap Agritourism Group
  - ⇒ Kitsap Food Systems Round Table
  - ⇒ Kitsap Farmland Preservation work group
  - ⇒ Clallam AgWorks
  - ⇒ Clallam County Conservation Futures Board



WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

# **WSU Extension Regional Small Farms Program**

---

Program Activity Update

By Kellie Henwood, WSU Regional Small Farms Coordinator

June 26, 2023

---



# Serving Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap Counties

WSU Regional Small Farms Program provides research-based information and educational programs for farmers, consumers, decision-makers, and others involved in local food systems.

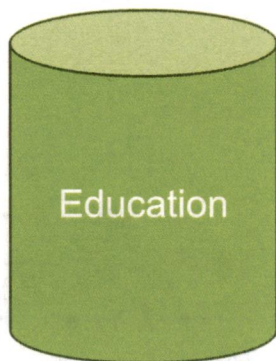




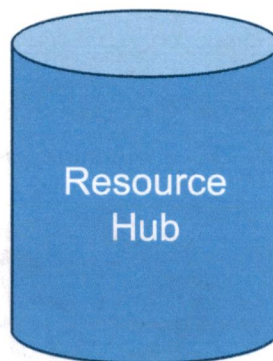
# Program Overview: What do we do?

---

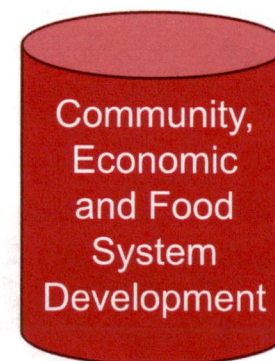
The Regional Small Farms Program supports small to mid-sized farms by leveraging the broad resources of a major university to resolve issues and create a positive food future for our region. WSU supports a thriving food and farm sector through:



- Workshops
- Classes
- Events



- One-on-one technical assistance
- Website
- Agriculture newsletter
- Access to WSU and partner specialists



- Eat Local First
- LandWorks
- Food Access programs
- Sweetpotato trials
- Applied research and policy development







# Meet the Small Farms Team!



**Kellie Henwood**

Regional Small Farms Coordinator

*Based in Jefferson County*



**Jess Sappington**

Interim Director, Kitsap County  
Extension

Food Systems Coordinator

*Based in Kitsap County*



**Laurel Moulton**

Integrated Pest Management and  
Horticultural Specialist

*Based in Clallam County*



**Clea Rome**

Director, Clallam County Extension

*Based in Clallam County*



**Dan McCarty**

Livestock Specialist

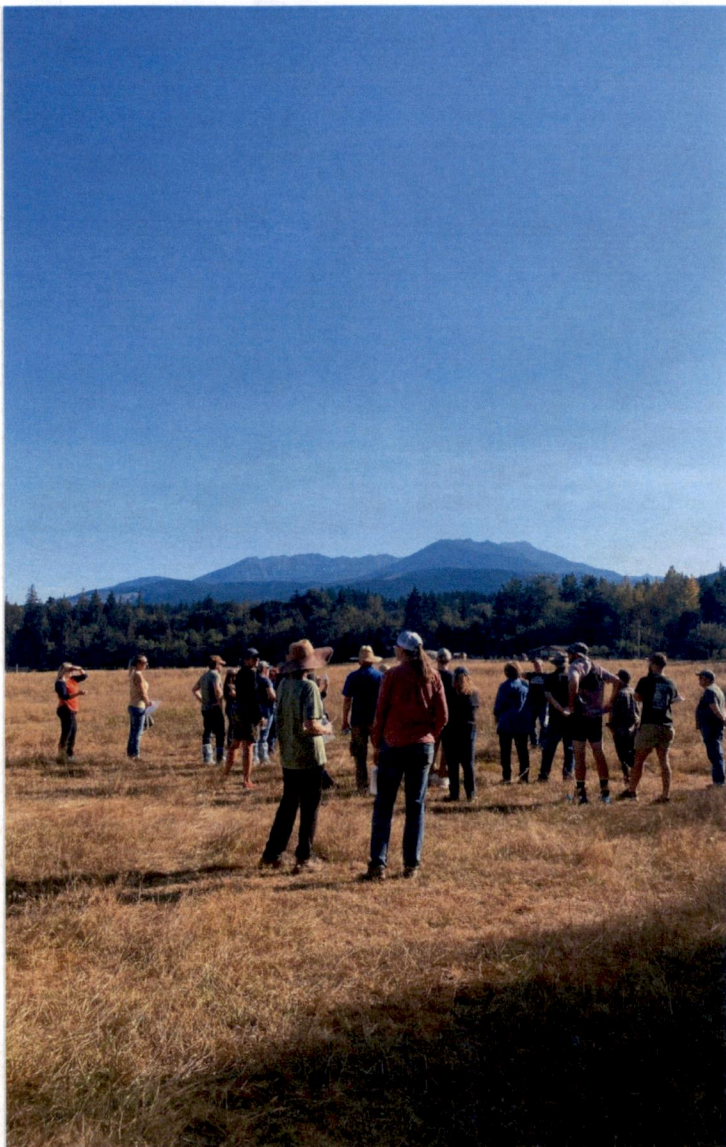
*Based in Clallam County*



**Lisa Vaughn**

Project Liaison, Eat Local First

*Based in Clallam County*



## Workshops | Classes | Events

### January

CS Agricultural Entrepreneurship  
NRCS Programs  
Social Media Basics for Farms  
Aquaponics with Kitsap Farms  
Season Planning and Seed Starting

### March

Developing a Food Safety Plan  
Basics of Sanitation  
Grower Training  
AI School  
Basic Goat Care

### April

Growing Sweetpotatoes in PNW  
L&I Farm Internships  
Spring Pasture MGMT and Goat Kidding  
LEAN Farming

### May

- Greenhouse Management Farm Walk

### June

- Flea Beetles Dirt Talk





**DIRT TALK Farm Walk**

**BOWMAN FARMS**  
SPRING PASTURE MANAGEMENT & GOAT KIDDING  
APRIL 18, 2023 @ 1 - 4PM

**WSU EXTENSION WHOLE FARM PLANNING**  
Online course Mondays 6:00pm-8:30pm Fall 2023

Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm.

**PLANIFICACIÓN DE TODA LA GRANJA**

Ya sea que sea explorando nuevas oportunidades disponibles o que ya tenga una operación existente, aprenderá lo que se necesita para crear, mantener y hacer crecer su granja de pequeña escala.

Curso en línea los lunes 6:00pm-8:30pm Otoño 2023

Scholarships available for Veterans and anyone for whom the course fee is a barrier. This course will be offered with Spanish language interpretation and facilitation.

Hay becas disponibles para veteranos militares y cualquier persona que no pueda pagar. (Clase traducida al español. En español).

Learn More! Más información  
<https://www.cultivatingusuccess.com/s/cultivating.usuccess@wsn.edu/360-37>

**SWEETPOTATO CULTIVATION**  
July 19th, 2023 @ 6pm *Online!*

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
Regional Small Farms

## Workshops | Classes | Events

### July

- Sweetpotato Cultivation

### August

- CS Is a Small Farm in Your Future?

### September

- CS Whole Farm Planning
- Farm Tour

### October

- Tilth Conference

### November

- On-Farm Composting

### December

- Blueberry IPM

### In development...

- WSU Mobile Meat Trailer classes for processors and meat producers
- Farmer Wellness and Suicide Prevention event





## Tilth Conference 2023

Partners include WSU, Tilth Alliance and Washington Organic Recycling Council

- October 26-28th
- Hosted at Fort Worden
- WSU Research Symposium, “Integrated Pest Management in a Changing Climate”



The Tilth Conference is an annual event spanning almost 50 years bringing together hundreds of farmers, food system professionals, researchers and educators for more than 25 lectures, workshops and panel discussions that highlight Washington’s farmers.

PLUS! Farm Walk at Chimacum Grain and White Lotus Farm





# Small Farms Resource Hub

## One-on-One Technical Assistance

---

Laurel Moulton, *WSU IPM and Horticulture Specialist*

- Hired in 2022 and WSU RSF Program staff
- Provides one-on-one technical assistance to crop producers in Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap farmers
- Serves on statewide IPM team, hosting sweetpotato varietal trials, teaches Dirt Talk topics, such as flea beetles, wire worm, cabbage worm and more to farmers
- Co-planning research symposium at Tilth



Laurel Moulton works with Goosefoot Farm in Chimacum to manage flea beetles



# Small Farms Resource Hub

## One-on-One Technical Assistance

---

Dan McCarty, *WSU Livestock Specialist*

- Hired in 2022 and WSU RSF Program staff
- Provides one-on-one technical assistance to livestock farmers and 4H members
- Serves Clallam, Jefferson and Kitsap farmers
- Hosted "Meet Your Livestock Specialist" open office hours Q&A's, Artificial Insemination (AI) workshop, Basic Goat Care, Goat Kidding, and guest speaker at Sunfield Farm



Dan McCarty at a basic goat care class in Kingston.





## Food System & Agricultural Development

### Supporting Small Farms

- Produce safety
- Starting and sustaining a small to mid-sized farm
- Marketing and farm business planning
- Access to land
- Agritourism
- Farmers Market Assistance



# Small Farms Resource Hub

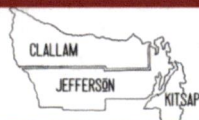


Clallam, Jefferson, Kitsap County  
WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
Regional Small Farms



Photo courtesy of WSU Extension Publication 137440

## Agriculture Newsletter



- 1200+ subscribers to Agriculture newsletter
- Online Learning Library of educational recordings
- Website resource hub

### Dirt Talk – *Cut worms, Cabbage maggot, Carrot rust fly*

Join Laurel Moulton, WSU Regional Small Farms Pest Specialist, and Betsey Wittick, owner of Laughing Crow Farm and farmer/viticulurist at Bainbridge Vineyards in a discussion on Cut Worms, Cabbage Maggot and Carrot Rust Fly.

### Dirt Talk – *Wireworms: Lifecycle and Integrated Management Strategies*

Join Dr. Brook Brouwer, director of Washington State University Extension in San Juan County, and Laurel Moulton, IPM Specialist for a discussions around Wireworms.

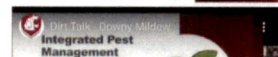
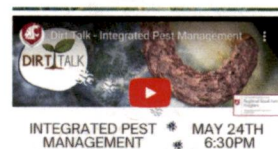
### Dirt Talk – *Clubroot*

Join Betsey Wittick, owner of Laughing Crow Farm and farmer/viticulurist at Bainbridge Vineyards in a discussion of helpful identification and management information on Clubroot.

[Dirt Talk IPM Clubroot Resource Sheet](#)

### Dirt Talk – *Downy Mildew*

Join Scott Chichester, owner of Chi's Farm in Sequim.



|                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Crop Production</b><br><br>Assistance on crops, cover crops, sustainable agriculture, and soil fertility. | <b>Business of Farming</b><br><br>Financial & farm business planning, labor & internships, Taxes, local resources. | <b>Marketing &amp; Selling Food</b><br><br>Value-added processing & production, and food safety requirements.                                          | <b>Water, Weather &amp; Drought</b><br><br>Water, Weather & Drought resources, and AgWeatherNet |
| <b>Access to Land</b><br><br>Access to land and land use resources.                                          | <b>Animal Agriculture</b><br><br>Animal Sciences and info on WSU livestock advisors.                               | <b>WSU Research &amp; Extension Centers</b><br><br>Listing of WSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension Program Units and specialties | <b>Census Data</b><br><br>Agriculture census data for Clallam, Jefferson, and Kitsap Counties.  |





## SWEETPOTATO CLASSES 2023

### PROPAGATING & PLANTING SWEETPOTATOES WILD EDGE FARM, PORT ANGELES

**JUNE 6**  
9:30am

**In-Person!**

Join farmers Karen and Jim at Wild Edge Farm to see their set up for sweetpotato slip production and their sweetpotato field. Learn about the Western SARE sponsored sweetpotato trials that they are hosting on their farm as well as discuss planting tips and techniques for our cool climate. Participants will get hands on experience by helping to plant a row of sweetpotato slips!

### SWEETPOTATO CULTIVATION DIRT TALK EVENT - ONLINE

**JULY 19**  
6:00pm

**Online!**

Find out what kind of sweetpotatoes local farms are growing and what techniques they have tried. The Olympic and Kitsap Peninsulas have a unique maritime climate where sweetpotatoes grow well but need a little heat boost. Find out about using black plastic mulch, low tunnels and variety selection.

### SWEETPOTATO FIELD DAY NORTHWEST RESEARCH AND EXTENSION CENTER, MOUNT VERNON

**SEPT 7**  
2:00pm

**In-Person!**

Visit the sweetpotato trial fields at the WSU NWREC to see side by side comparison of common commercial varieties, Washington farmer recommended varieties, new wireworm resistant lines and unreleased breeding lines from the USDA sweetpotato program that are being assessed for western WA growing conditions. Samples of each variety will be harvested for viewing and harvest equipment will be on display. Results of NWREC trials will be discussed.

### HARVESTING AND CURING AROUND THE TABLE FARM, POULSBORO

**OCT**  
Date TBD  
2pm

**In-Person!**

Join Farmers Dana and Aaron Steege-Jackson at Around the Table Farm who have been growing sweetpotatoes in Poulsbo for more than 10 years. Learn from their experience and experimentation about successful harvesting, curing and storage of sweetpotatoes. View the special curing chamber they have built.



# Sweetpotato Variety Trial

- Find varieties of sweetpotatoes that grow well in our area
- Find wireworm resistant varieties that will aid in successful cultivation of sweetpotatoes on organic farms that struggle with wireworm (because there are virtually no options for organic wireworm management)
- Provide resources and classes/workshops to help local farmers experiment with growing sweetpotatoes in a low-risk manner to see whether sweetpotatoes are a viable crop.
- Approximately 25 sites throughout Jefferson, Clallam and Kitsap Counties (6 in Jefferson)



# PPE Equipment to Farmers

---



Washington State University Extension (WSU) was awarded a substantial grant through the Washington State Department of Agriculture to support Washington specialty crop producers, packers, and employees through distribution of COVID-19 relief supplies.

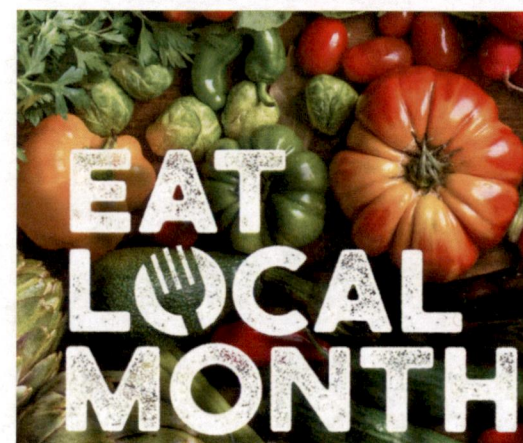
- Handwashing stations and supplies
- Air quality (Air filter)
- Sanitizers (hand and surface)
- Eye Protection (goggles)
- Hand Protection (gloves)
- Face Protection (masks and respirators)

**Total farms who will receive PPE**

**25+ farms in Jefferson, 20+ farms in Clallam, and 35+ farms in Kitsap**



# EAT LOCAL FIRST



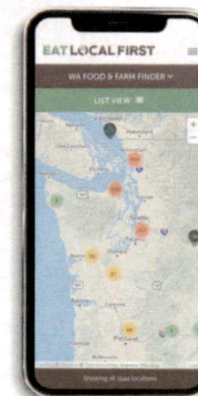
<https://eatlocalfirsttolypen.com/>



Look for this logo to see what's local!

**BUY LOCAL.  
EAT LOCAL.  
SUPPORT LOCAL.**

Find your favorite **LOCAL** products!





# JEFFERSON LAND WORKS

COLLABORATIVE



*Partnership to keep working  
lands viable in Jefferson County.*

- Craft3
- Jefferson Conservation District
- Jefferson Land Trust
- North Olympic Development Council
- Port Townsend Food Coop
- Washington State University Extension
- plus additional advisors





# LandWorks Successes

## Kawamoto Farm Transition Effort

- Historic Japanese American Quilcene family farm 100+ years
- 149 acres protected forever by Jefferson Land Trust
- Equitable RFP Process and Selection Committee
- Applicants had access to resource providers
- August 2022 Welcome new owners Kawamoto-Wipala farmers



## Integral in the launch of Farm to Farmer Program

Farm to Farmer is a full service program of Washington Farmland Trust that provides land access to a new generation of farmers. We help farmers find the land opportunities they need to grow their businesses, and help landowners sell or lease their land to keep it in farming. We offer personalized technical assistance to current and aspiring farmers, farming and non-farming landowners, veterans, real estate agents, and organizations looking to expand their incubator or ag park programs.

### Since 2022

- Supported 12 farmers (2 successful matches)
- Supported 6 landowners (1 signed lease)
- Numerous on-going relationships



## Farm to School

### Port Townsend School District

**USDA Farm to School contracting 60 hours of small farms coordinator time to:**

- Provide school production garden curriculum development
- Compost and food waste technical assistance
- Professional development for teachers via farm tours and local food system education

Farmer Charlotte Frederickson gives teachers a tour of pasture-raised pork at One Straw Ranch





# Food Access Programming

**\$70,000+**  
in farm contracts



## Olympic Peninsula Farm to Food Bank Fund



- Building economic growth and stability for local farmers while
- Increasing access to fresh, nutrient-dense foods in our community.



**Donate Today**