

Thurston County Online Survey to Share Your Perspective on Local Agriculture Screen Print of Survey (excluding Farmer Only sections)

What is your relationship to agriculture in Thurston County? (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> New or prospective farmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Financial assistance or economic development organization
<input type="checkbox"/> Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/> Elected official
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture product processor	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture educator or researcher
<input type="checkbox"/> Interested citizen	<input type="checkbox"/> Ag technical service provider
<input type="checkbox"/> Land trust or other non-profit	<input type="checkbox"/> K-12 youth involved in FFA, 4-H or similar
<input type="checkbox"/> Government agency	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
	<input type="text"/>

If you would like to be included on an email list for future correspondence about Thurston County Agriculture please enter your name, business name and email address (your survey answers are anonymous, and your contact information will be separated from your responses). If you would rather provide your contact information separately for communications, please contact Jennifer Davis (jennifer.davis@co.thurston.wa.us).

Would you be interested in participating in future stakeholder groups or community meetings on agriculture/farmland protection topics?

Yes

No

SECTION 4: CONCERNS ABOUT FARMING AND FARMLAND

Please click on a response for each of these concern statements.

	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	N/A
I am concerned about the conversion/loss of farmland to development or other land uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the loss of market opportunities for local farms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the lack of infrastructure (processing, aggregation, storage, distribution) for farms and local businesses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned that prospective or existing farmers don't have access to enough assistance for financial planning, marketing, or developing their business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't know what regulations exist around farming or what permits are needed for building agricultural infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned that prospective or existing farmers don't have access to enough assistance for financial planning, marketing, or developing their business	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I don't know what regulations exist around farming or what permits are needed for building agricultural infrastructure	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned there aren't enough local incentive programs to keep farmers farming	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about having access to locally-grown food	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
I am concerned about the lack of integration of habitat protection and protecting working farmlands	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please share any other specific concerns about agriculture in Thurston County.

SECTION 5: FAMILIARITY WITH COUNTY AGRICULTURE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

How familiar are you with the following County land use policies and programs?

	I am familiar with how this helps farmland/farming	I have heard of this, but am unsure how it helps	I am unfamiliar with this
Thurston County Comprehensive Plan policies to protect farmland, including "no net loss" of farmland policy	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agritourism Overlay District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Agriculture Code/Thurston County Development Regulations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County Zoning for Long-Term Agriculture and Nisqually Agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sustainable Thurston	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Voluntary Stewardship Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please rank the following county land use policy action items in order of priority (1 = top priority, 7 = lowest priority).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Designate/zone more land as agricultural land of long-term commercial significance (long-term agriculture or Nisqually agriculture)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Reduce the ability of important agricultural lands outside of long-term ag zones to be subdivided and developed	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve implementation of no net loss of farmland policy, e.g. by tracking conversion of farmland to other land uses	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Identify locally significant farmland on land use maps and create policies to protect it	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review all proposed comprehensive plan/zoning amendments for potential impacts on agriculture	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fund/create an agricultural liaison staff position to help farmers navigate County regulations and programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create incentives for property owners to opt-into long-term agriculture zoning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe any other policy actions you think would be important for the county to pursue.

For your top-ranked actions, why are these the most important to you?

SECTION 6: NON-REGULATORY PROGRAMS

How familiar are you with the following County farmland preservation programs/tools?

	I know how this is used to protect farmland	I've heard about this but unsure how it works	I am unfamiliar with this
Conservation Futures Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Transfer of Development Rights Program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Open Space or Current Use Tax Programs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please rank the following non-regulatory action items in order of importance to you (1 = top priority, 7 = lowest priority).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Provide more technical assistance and access to funding to protect critical areas on farms in a non-regulatory and collaborative manner (e.g., through the Voluntary Stewardship Program)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create more opportunities for farmers to sell development rights from their land to be used in urban areas (transfer of development rights program)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand open space tax program (property tax relief) opportunities for smaller farms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fund a purchase of development rights program specifically for farmland	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Improve outreach to farmers about how to lower property taxes in exchange for maintaining an undeveloped landscape via the open space tax program	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provide more funding for conservation futures for land trusts or the county to purchase land or easements from retiring farmers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do more outreach to farmers around non-regulatory options to keep farmland, including opportunities for working lands easements	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe other non-regulatory actions you think would be important for the county to pursue.

For your top-ranked action(s), explain why these are the most important to you.

SECTION 7. COUNTY REGULATIONS AND PERMITTING

Rank the following county regulation and permitting action items in order of priority (1 = top priority, 6 = lowest priority).

	1	2	3	4	5	6
Make the permit process easier for beneficial conservation enhancement projects	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Do more to educate the community about the right-to-farm ordinance	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review impacts to farmland when considering development applications, including impacts to water rights and loss of important farmland soils	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Encourage the use of cluster development for subdivision of important farmland (clustering houses in one area and setting aside a larger parcel for use as farming or open space)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Decrease the maximum density in long-term agricultural zoning districts (currently 1 unit per 20 acres for long-term ag zone, and 1 unit per 40 acres in Nisqually ag zone)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Create a program(s) for developers to mitigate the loss of important farmland to development, or charge impact fees for conversion of farmland to development or recreational use	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please describe other regulatory or permitting actions you think would be important for the county to pursue.

For your top-ranked action(s), explain why these are the most important to you.

SECTION 8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE

Please rank the following economic development and assistance action items in order of priority (1 = top priority, 8 = lowest priority).

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Support agritourism and opportunities for the community to visit farms/farm stands, including consideration of expanding the Agritourism Overlay District	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Help farmers find new markets (e.g., wholesale, farm-to-school, regional branding, aggregation-distribution support)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Strengthen infrastructure for processing (e.g., recruit slaughter, storage and processing facilities)	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Work with local financial institutions to find new ways to provide agricultural business support for new farmers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Expand land linking programs to facilitate farmland access	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Expand farmer training and recruitment programs including farmer-to-farmer learning, workshops, and mentoring

Explore reducing or eliminating fees charged by the county and local improvement districts on working lands, including permit fees

Expand teen/youth recruitment programs (e.g., 4H, FFA) to help bolster the future of farming in Thurston County

Please describe other economic development and assistance action you think would be important for the county to pursue.

For your top-ranked action(s), explain why these are the most important to you.

Please provide any other comments regarding agriculture in Thurston County.

Thank you for completing this survey, your answers will help support viable agriculture in Thurston County and the region.