

GETTING CONNECTED RESOURCES FOR SMALL FARMS IN WASHINGTON



Washington State small farm and direct marketing businesses can expand their knowledge and networks by taking advantage of the variety of classes, workshops, field days, and conferences held throughout the state. These opportunities are offered by nonprofit organizations, conservation districts, Washington State University (WSU) Extension and Food System Program, Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), USDA, and many local farmers and partners. Typically, these trainings and events are designed to be affordable or free to farmers. Most organizations rely heavily on email and social media to announce events and share information. If you have limited access to the internet, please call the phone numbers below to request information.

This fact sheet includes information about:

- Key listservs, online newsletters, and blogs
- Business development resources
- Conferences and gatherings
- Ongoing farmer support
- Free farm listings for Washington State

Key Listservs, Online Newsletters, and Blogs

The following groups regularly post upcoming events for small farms. The topics range widely, from technical trainings to farmer field days and harvest celebrations. To sign up, please go to the web address listed and follow directions to be added to a listserv or newsletter. There are many additional, excellent resources like these at the local level. Contact your county extension office, conservation district, USDA service center, farmers market manager, or area nonprofits for more information.

Office of Farmland Preservation's Newsletter

scc.wa.gov/ofp

The Washington State Conservation Commission's Office of Farmland Preservation has a concise monthly e-newsletter that aggregates current research, legislative updates, training opportunities, and timely reports related to food, land use, food systems, and farming. Sign up on the newsletter webpage.

Tilth Alliance Newsletter

tilthalliance.org

Tilth Alliance has an active farmer e-newsletter. Click on "Farmer Resources" and fill out the form to sign up. They also publish a farm directory, host farm walks in partnership with WSU Food Systems Program, and produce the annual statewide Tilth Conference.

Rural Roots Listserv

ruralroots.org

Providing education and networking for farmers in the Inland Northwest, Rural Roots hosts listservs. Subscription information is on the Resources section of their website.

WSDA Newsletters and AgBriefs Blog

agr.wa.gov

WSDA publishes the AgBriefs blog with updates on issues of interest to the agricultural community. Several WSDA programs, including the Organic and Animal Health programs, have email lists to share updates.

WSU Center for Sustaining Ag and Natural Resources Blog

csanr.wsu.edu/blog

The WSU's Center for Sustaining Ag and Natural Resources (CSANR) blog features a wide range of timely topics from current research on compost, pest protection, and climate change to social issues in farming and reflections on conferences. Posts are written by WSU faculty, researchers, and students.

WSU Washington Farm and Food Resource Email list

foodsystem.wsu.edu

WSU Food Systems Program hosts this email list that announces key educational events, trainings, and various opportunities and resources for Washington small farms.

GETTING CONNECTED

WSU Women, Farms, and Food Email List and Women in Ag Forum Facebook Group

WSU Women in Agriculture hosts an email list and Facebook group for women farmers in Washington and other western states. Join either the list or the group by visiting the Women, Farms, and Food Facebook page.

Washington Women in Food Systems Email Group

Washington Women in Food Systems (w2fs) is a networking group with an active email list and frequent gatherings in the Seattle area. Join the Google Group by sending an email to w2fs+subscribe@w2fs.org with "subscribe" in the subject line.

Washington Young Farmers Coalition Listserv

The Washington Chapter of the Young Farmers Coalition aims to develop the community of young growers in Washington by providing material, and organizational and educational support, as well as facilitating action toward an abundant, just and food-secure future. Send an email to wayoungfarmers@gmail.com with a request to subscribe.

Whatcom Farmers Listserv

There are more than 400 subscribers to this list for agriculture topics related to Whatcom County. To join, send an email to whatcomfarmers@googlegroups.com.

Business Development Resources

The following resources may help you run your farm business in Washington.

Access Washington

access.wa.gov

"Access Washington" is a portal to government agencies and services available through the state of Washington. The "Doing Business" section has links to business-specific topics.

The Capital Press Agricultural Weekly

capitalpress.com

Known simply as "The Capital Press," this is the only weekly newspaper focused on agriculture on the West Coast. Available in print and online, it is an excellent resource for farmers of any scale.

County Economic Development Organizations

allison.clark@commerce.wa.gov | 206-256-6124

Each region in Washington State has a local economic development organization focused on building economic opportunities in their regions. Many offer workshops and direct assistance to local businesses. A county listing of Associate Development Organizations is available on the Department of Commerce website, commerce.wa.gov. Search for "economic partnerships."

Small Business Administration, District Offices in Washington

sba.gov

The local chapter of the U.S. SBA has offices in Seattle, 206-553-7310 and Spokane, 509-353-2800 and has an interest in serving rural businesses. They also offer business ownership support for historically underserved people, such as minorities and women.

Washington State Small Business Guide

oria.wa.gov.

The Washington Governor's Office of Regulatory Innovation and Assistance (ORIA) has an excellent "Small Business Guide" that outlines clear steps in business development, and who to contact for help.

WSU Extension and CSANR Publications

pubs.cahnrs.wsu.edu | 509-293-8798

To find research and peer reviewed publications on a range of small farms and direct marketing topics, search for "Learning Library." From there, either browse "Program Areas and Topics," or search for relevant publications by key words. Many of the publications are free or have a modest cost to cover printing.

Washington State Small Business Development Centers

wsbdc.org | 509-358-7765

A network of business advisors, trainers, and support staff who operate from around the state, the SBDC offers workshops, online trainings, and direct services.

SCORE

score.org

SCORE is a national organization with local chapters that offers small business mentoring and technical assistance. Some chapters also offer workshops,

recorded webinars, tax resources, and other services. Find the nearest chapter by zip code on the website.

Conferences and Gatherings

There are more ways than ever to tap into agricultural resources and networks, but nothing beats spending a day or two at a conference or a tabling event to hear from agricultural and marketing experts, and meet other farmers. Many organizations offer discounted rates and scholarships for farmers. Here are some examples of gatherings to sign up for:

- Focus on Farming Conference
- Inland NW Small Acreage Farming Conference
- NW Washington Farm to Table Summit
- Oregon State University Small Farms Conference
- San Juan Agricultural Summit
- Small Farm Expo
- Tilth Conference
- Washington State Farmers Market Association Conference
- Women in Agriculture

Ongoing Farmer Support

The following organizations offer classes, workshops, webinars, farm walks, and other educational opportunities for new and established farmers in Washington.

21 Acres

21acres.org | 425-481-1500

Ag Forestry Leadership Program

agforestry.org | 509-926-9133

Begin to Farm Skagit

vivafarms.org | 360-969-7191

Carnation Farms

carnationfarms.org | 425-884-3140

Cloud Mountain Farm Center

cloudmountainfarmcenter.org | 360-966-5859

Commodity Commissions

agr.wa.gov | 360-902-2043

Culinary Breeding Network

culinarybreedingnetwork.com

Edmonds Community College, Horticulture Department

edcc.edu | 425-640-1459

The Evergreen State College Organic Farm

evergreen.edu | 360-867-6160

Farm King County

farmkingcounty.org | 206-263-8500

Gorge Grown Food Network

gorgegrown.com | 541-490-6420

Northwest Agriculture Business Center

agbizcenter.org | 888-707-2021

Organic Seed Alliance

seedalliance.org | 360-385-7192

PNW Farm Direct Marketing Association

pnwfarmdirect.org | 360-280-1990

Quilliscut Farm and School of the Domestic Arts

quilliscut.com | 509-738-2011

Rural Roots

ruralroots.org | 208-883-3462

San Juan Ag Guild

sjiagguild.com | 360-378-0095

SnoValley Tilth

snovalleytilth.org | 425-270-8469

Seattle Central Community College Bioregional Food Systems Degrees

seattlecentral.edu | 206-934-3800

Skagit Valley Community College Sustainable Agriculture Program

www.skagit.edu | 360-416-7816

South Whidbey Tilth

southwhidbeytilth.org | info@southwhidbeytilth.org

GETTING CONNECTED

Sustainable Connections Food & Farming Program
sustainableconnections.org | 360-647-7093

Tilth Alliance
tilthalliance.org | 206-632-7506

Viva Farms and Sustainable Agriculture Education (SAGE)
vivafarms.org | 360-969-7191

Washington State Conservation Commission
scc.wa.gov | 360-407-6200

Washington State Department of Agriculture
agr.wa.gov | 360-902-1800

Washington State Farm Bureau
wsfb.com | 360-357-9975

Washington State Farmers Market Association
wafarmersmarkets.org | 206-706-5198

Washington State Grange
wa-grange.org | 800-854-1635

Wenatchee Valley College, Sustainable and Organic Ag Degree Program
wvc.edu | 509-682-6800

Whidbey Organic Farm School
organicfarmschool.org | 360-579-4989

WSU College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences
cahnrs.wsu.edu | 509-335-6967

WSU Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR)
csanr.wsu.edu | 253-445-4626

WSU Cultivating Success™: Sustainable Small Farms Education
foodsystems.wsu.edu

WSU Extension County Offices
cahnrsdirectory.cahnrs.wsu.edu

WSU Food Systems Program
foodsystems.wsu.edu | 360-379-5610, ext. 212

WSU Organic Farm
css.wsu.edu | 509-335-5893

Free Farm Listings for Washington State

If you are interested in promoting your farm and products online or on farm maps, the following are good places to start. There are also many local listings by region and county. Contact local agriculture organizations in your region for information.

Farm Finder – WSU
farmfinder.cahnrs.wsu.edu | 360-379-5610

Farm Guide – Tilth Alliance
farm-guide.org | 206-633-0451

Farm Network – NABC
agbizcenter.org | 888-707-2021

Food and Farm Guide – Inland Northwest Food Network
inwfoodnetwork.org | 208-546-9366

Gorge Grown Food Network
gorgegrown.com | 541-490-6420

Local Food Guide – Rural Roots Inland NW
ruralroots.org | 208-883-3462

Local Harvest
localharvest.org | 831-515-5602

Whatcom and Skagit County Food and Farm Finder – Sustainable Connections
sustainableconnections.org | 360-647-7093



2. Resources for Veteran Farmers
3. Resources for Spanish-speaking Farmers
4. Resources for Hmong Farmers
11. Direct Marketing in Washington State