



Photography by Don McMoran

WSU Skagit County Extension

# Skagit County Agriculture Statistics

2014

Greetings!

Washington State University Skagit County Extension has been keeping crop records since 1922. Information is compiled from processing companies, farm organizations, growers, field representatives, media sources, and University sources.

Agricultural statistics with related written details are important for several reasons:

- ◆ Figures show the past production history of farming in a community;
- ◆ Statistics show the ups and downs of agriculture in relationship to weather, economics, urban encroachment, disasters, or a shift in production to other areas;
- ◆ Figures give a basis on which to make important decisions for land-use planning, zoning, and economic development planning related to agriculture.

Your comments and suggestions are welcomed and encouraged. Feel free to give us a call if we can help you better understand the enclosed information.

*Don McMoran*

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Washington State University Extension engages people, organizations and communities to advance economic well-being and quality of life by connecting them to the knowledge base of the university and by fostering inquiry, learning, and the application of research.

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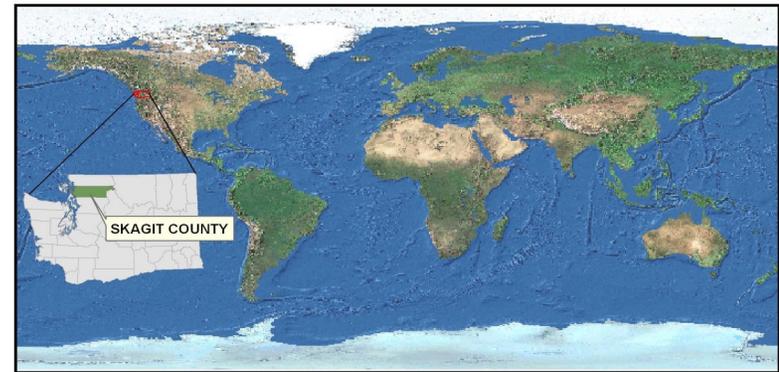


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## GEOGRAPHY

Skagit County is 60 miles north of Seattle. It is 24 miles wide (north and south) and 95 miles long (east and west). Several islands in the Puget Sound area are included in the county. Snowcapped Mount Baker (in Whatcom County), elevation 10,000 feet, dominates the northeastern edge of the county and is the start of the North Cascades wilderness area and National Park. The Skagit River, which is famous for steelhead and salmon fishing and serves as important bald eagle feeding grounds, begins in the North Cascade mountain area. The upper Skagit has three hydro-electric dams which provide power for the northwest. Below the dams, the Skagit is fed by the Sauk, Cascade, Suiattle and Baker rivers. The Skagit River flows through the “upper valley” and continues through thousands of acres of fertile farmland before emptying into Puget Sound.



## CLIMATE

Cool, marine temperatures and an abundance of moisture is evidenced by the lush growth of forest, pastures and agricultural crops in Skagit County.

*Rainfall.* The “rule of thumb” is to add one inch of moisture for each mile traveled east from Puget Sound. Anacortes averages 25 inches per year; Marblemount, 95 inches per year. The driest year since 1948 was in 1987, when precipitation total was 20.71 inches. The wettest year was 1990, with 47.20 inches.

Approximately 20% of the rainfall in Mount Vernon occurs June through September. The sun shines 65% of the time in summer, and 25% of the time in winter.

## TEMPERATURE:

The highest temperature ever on record at the WSU Northwestern Washington Research and Extension Center at Mount Vernon, was 98° F on August 9, 1960. The average summer temperature is 73° F. The highest recorded winter temperature for December, January and February was 65° F. The lowest temperature on record was -4° F. on January 26, 1957. WSU NWREC has been keeping records since 1948. (See chart on next page).



Photo by WSU SCMG Sheri Hunter

## 2014 WEATHER PICTURE

The winter of 2013/2014 had an adverse impact on the perennial cropping systems in Skagit County with temperatures getting down to 12.8 degrees on December 12th, 2013, this event resulted in killing off 30-35% of cabbage, raspberry and blackberry plantings. Spring was a wet one with many farmers giving up on depressed areas in their fields leaving the Valley looking like a patchwork quilt from the air. Farmers received small rainfall events that kept them out of their fields until the last week in March. April was go time in 2014 when farmers were able to have a good shot of weather to get crops in the ground. May decided to be a little more difficult with over 1.5 inches of rain recorded at WSU NWREC on May 8th and 9th. Although 2014 will go down in the record books as a fair spring in western Washington, there was some need for improvement for the remainder of the year. Summer turned out some of the hottest, driest weather we have seen in western Washington and farmers irrigated more than average. September started us off with 2.64 inches of rain and made harvest slightly difficult but October closed the door on harvest with 6.07 inches of rain falling at WSU NWREC. Over 1000 acres of potatoes were left in the ground in the winter of 2014-2015.

Month	High	Low	Average air temp	Precipitation
<i>January</i>	46.9	36.3	41.6	4.7
<i>February</i>	44.6	33.1	38.7	3.89
<i>March</i>	53.3	41.2	46.8	4.45
<i>April</i>	58.6	43.2	50.5	3.26
<i>May</i>	65.9	49.1	57.1	3.68
<i>June</i>	69	51	59.2	1.14
<i>July</i>	75.6	53.7	64.1	1.29
<i>August</i>	75.9	54.4	64.4	0.88
<i>September</i>	70.7	51.1	60.4	2.64
<i>October</i>	63.4	50.8	56.8	6.07
<i>November</i>	51.6	37.1	43.9	3.9
<i>December</i>	49.2	37.4	43.1	3.73
				Year Total – 39.63

Source: <http://www.weather.wsu.edu/>



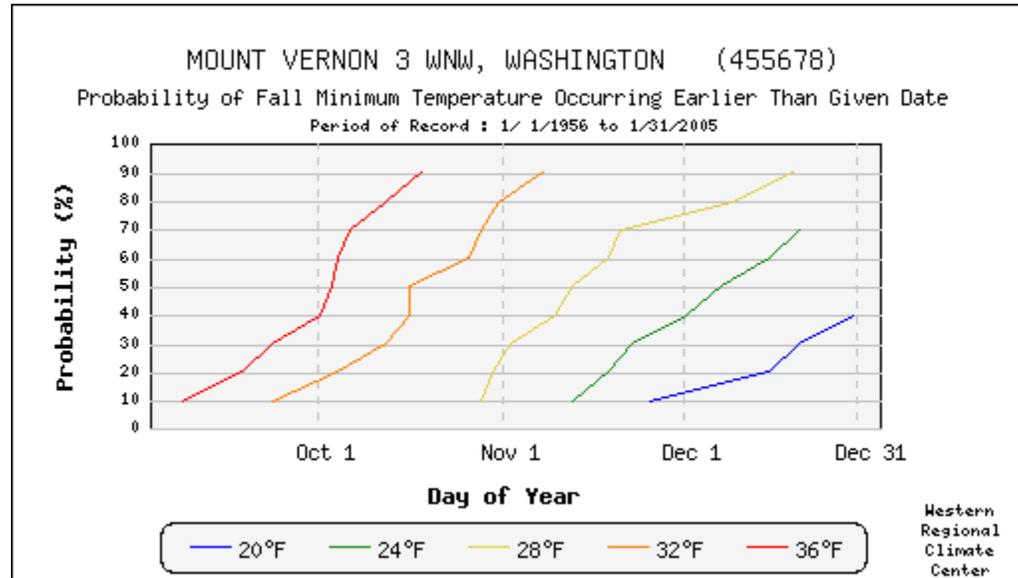
**FROST FREE DAYS:**

The lower Skagit Valley area has approximately 230 growing days and the upper valley has approximately 200 growing days. The last spring frost in the lower valley is estimated to occur about April 15, and the first fall frost occurs about October 15.

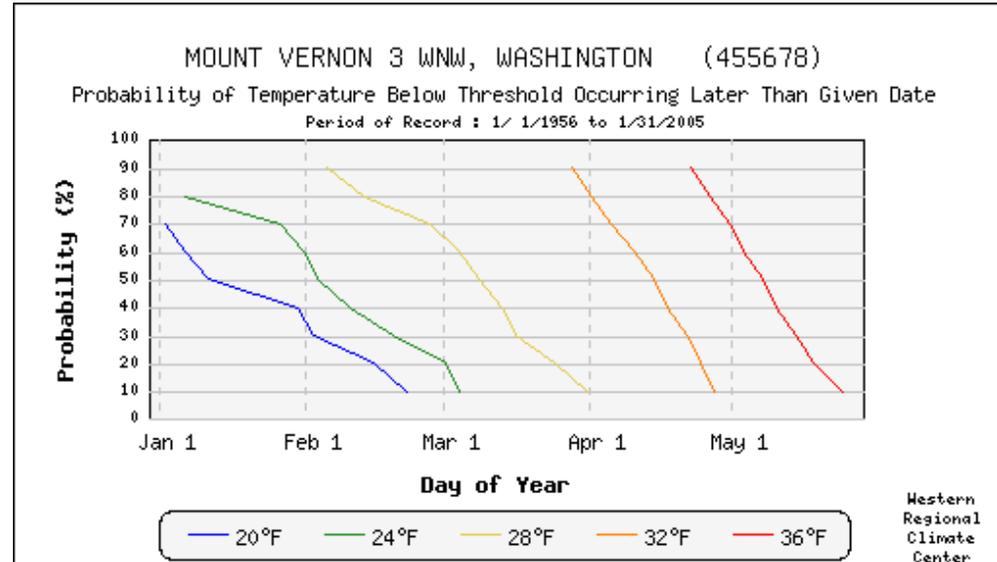


Photography by Don McMoran

**Fall Freeze Probabilities**



**Spring Freeze Probabilities**



## IRRIGATION

In July and August, irrigation was used on approximately 17,000 acres of cropland in 2014. This was slightly above average for Skagit County due to a dry summer. The main crops irrigated were grass pasture, berries, potatoes, vegetable seed crops and tree fruits.

## SOILS

The Skagit Valley was formed by water-deposited (alluvial) soils. Most cropland and pasture land in the county is located in the floodplain-delta area. This area covers the valley floor and extends east along the Skagit River and its tributaries. There are five primary soil types in the floodplain-delta area. Three types are located in the floodplain: Skagit (26%), which consists of silt loam, silty clay loam, and a small amount of very fine sandy loam; Sumas (15%); and Field (14%). The other two types are found along the Skagit River: Lorus (17%) and Pilchuck (14%). Floodplain soils are highly productive under dry land farming. Elevation in this area ranges from sea level to 500 feet. The high amount of rainfall makes the soils acid; therefore, lime is required to grow most crops.

Soil wetness is the major limitation for crops in the floodplain area. The Skagit and Samish Rivers have had a long history of flooding. The Skagit River, from just west of Sedro-Woolley to the Puget Sound, is protected from flooding by dikes and levees. The floodplain areas along the lower reaches of the Samish River, below Thomas Creek, are flooded almost every year.

## AGRICULTURE: SKAGIT FACTS

- ♦ Skagit County is a major producer of cabbage, table beet, and spinach seed for the world. There are seven vegetable seed companies in the county, most of which market products worldwide.
- ♦ There are two remaining processing companies in Skagit County, Sakuma Brothers and Gielow Pickles. .
- ♦ There are two major ag-supply dealers in the Valley: Skagit Farmers Supply and Wilbur-Ellis provide supplies and services to farmers.
- ♦ More tulip, daffodil, and iris bulbs are produced in Skagit County than in any county in the United States.
- ♦ Skagit County ranks fifth in dairy production in Washington State.
- ♦ About 10,000 Trumpeter and Tundra swans, 100,000 Snow geese, and thousands more of mallard and other dabbling ducks utilize Skagit farmland for food and habitat. Skagit County is host to one of the highest concentrations of raptors, which also utilize farmland, in North America.
- ♦ Every year since 1999 approximately 20,000 visitors enjoy the Skagit Valley Festival of Family Farms.



## AGRICULTURAL LABOR

Minimum wage in the state of Washington is the highest in the country, the result of a 1998 citizens' initiative passed by voters that links the minimum wage to the Federal Consumer Price Index.



Photo by Don McMoran

## SKAGIT COUNTY POPULATION GROWTH

	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2014
	43,273	52,381	64,138	79,555	102,300	118,837

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Washington State Minimum Wage

Effective Date	Dollars per Hour
January 1, 1968	1.60
January 1, 1974	1.80
September 1, 1975	2.00
January 1, 1976	2.30
January 1, 1989	3.85
January 1, 1990	4.25
January 1, 1994	4.90
September 1, 1997 (Federal minimum wage changed)	5.15
January 1, 1999	5.70
January 1, 2000	6.50
January 1, 2001	6.72
January 1, 2002	6.90
January 1, 2003	7.01
January 1, 2006	7.63
January 1, 2007	7.93
January 1, 2008	8.07
January 1, 2009	8.55
January 1, 2011	8.67
January 1, 2014	9.32
January 1, 2015	9.47

## CROPS

In the past the Skagit County processing industry revolved around green peas. 2010 marked the first year since the early 1900s that no commercial pea processing took place in Skagit County. As a result, growers have been experimenting with new crops in hopes of finding the next niche.

Potatoes have become a very important crop with acreage expanding significantly over the past fifteen years. Other crops, such as cole crops, vegetable seed crops, cucumbers, flower bulbs, and small fruits contribute less in gross dollars but are very important. The net return to the grower on these crops is relatively high, and they provide diversification and many jobs.

## APPLES

Apple acreage in Skagit County is on the decline. The 2014 Skagit crop showed below average yields and average quality with a moderate pricing structure.

Our coastal climate allows us to grow varieties that are different from those grown in the large apple-producing regions of central Washington. Varieties grown here such as Jonagold, Gravenstein, Spartan, Akane and Honey Crisp are excellent apples to consume, but with no apple processing facilities in Skagit County, shipping the apples back and forth across the mountain passes makes commercial production ineffective.

In 1998 Washington State Department of Agriculture added Skagit to the list of counties quarantined against apple maggot. WSU Skagit County Extension initiated the formation of the Skagit County Horticultural Pest and Disease Board to develop programs to prevent the pest from infesting commercial orchards. To date, no apple maggots have been found in commercial orchards.

## BLUEBERRIES

Harvested by hand and machine, about half the crop is sold for fresh market, and half is processed. Yields and quality in this area are exceptionally high compared to the Midwest. Our cooler summer temperatures allow the berries to ripen slowly, which results in more sugar. Prices remain strong for blueberries despite predictions of overproduction.

## BLACKBERRIES

2014 provided mixed reviews for the blackberry crop. A cold snap in December decreased fruit production. As consumers diversify their berry palate, this will be one to watch for the future. As you know Skagit County can grow some amazing blackberries; however, more cold tolerance is needed in commercial blackberry varieties.



## BULB CROPS

Approximately 1,100 acres of tulips, daffodils, and iris are grown in Skagit County. They are sold for both cut flowers and bulbs and shipped throughout the U.S. and Canada. About 20 million bulbs are harvested each summer in Skagit County. About 75 million cut flowers are grown in greenhouses and fields, accounting for over 50% of overall sales. About 450 acres of tulips are grown in the Valley, which represents 75% of U.S. commercial production. Skagit County is known worldwide for its Tulip Festival, which occurs the entire month of April. The Tulip Festival began in 1984 and now brings an estimated 300,000 visitors and \$65 million in revenue to the county.

The bulb industry averages about \$20 million in annual gross income, \$3 million of which is in bulb sales. Since 1968, flower prices have increased three times, while bulbs have only doubled, but prices have decreased steadily since 2000. There are now only three bulb-growing farms in the region.



## CAULIFLOWER AND BROCCOLI

All cauliflower and broccoli are grown for fresh market. Head quality is exceptionally high in this region. Approximately 60% to 80% of the broccoli and cauliflower grown in Skagit is consumed in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Skagit farmers grew about 1,000 acres of cauliflower and broccoli this year. Farmers in the Skagit Valley maintained acreages for these important rotational crops in 2013 largely for the nutrient and disease suppression that brassica crops provide.



## CHICKENS AND EGGS

Washington is ranked 16th in the nation for egg production. Two companies produce the majority of the eggs in Skagit County: Day Creek Organic Farms, and National Foods. These two farms account for hundreds of millions of eggs being produced in Skagit County and Washington State.

Egg prices dropped 2.3 percent from April to May but have increased 10.1 percent since this time last year. The recent increases in egg prices, partly driven by a sharp increase in exports, have been larger than seasonal expectations. However, egg production has increased in the first quarter of 2014, and that may somewhat ease higher-than-expected egg prices at the grocery store.

Source: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-price-outlook/summary-findings.aspx>

The sole Washington-owned chicken processor in the state, Draper Valley Farms, is located in Mount Vernon. The company employs approximately 500 people and has sales around 80 million dollars.



## CUCUMBERS

The lone pickle cucumber processor in Washington State is Gielow Pickles located at the Port of Skagit County with the headquarters located in Lexington, MI. According to their website, “Making pickles is in our blood. When our family began making pickles in the early 1900’s, our goal was to make the highest quality pickle at a competitive price. Today, our goal remains the same. The use of automated packaging equipment, direct contact with growers across America, and the buying power of the market leaders enables Gielow Pickles to accomplish our goal.”



## POTATOES

Potato acreage consists primarily of fresh market reds, whites, yellows, purple, fingerlings and some chipping potatoes. Skagit potatoes are in demand for their high quality. Late blight disease is a constant threat to the industry; however, due to a study of all the growers in Skagit and northern Snohomish counties, WSU Skagit County Extension was able to determine that Potato Virus Y (PVY) and Silver Scurf continues to be more of a problem for area growers. Researchers at WSU NWREC and WSU Skagit County Extension are now working on these issues. Because of the need for a three-year rotation, there is limited ground available for the 14,000 acres of potatoes currently grown in Skagit County. Overall production was up for 2014. The advantage in 2014 was that once the wet spring turned, things opened up for the growers; they scrambled to get enough water on the crop in July and then received an abundance of rainfall in September. There were over 1000 acres of potatoes that were not harvested in 2013 based on those heavy rains.



Photo by Don McMoran

## RASPBERRIES

The majority of raspberry acreage in Skagit County is harvested by machine; high labor costs designate that hand harvest be designated for fresh consumption. The primary variety is Meeker. The majority of the crop is frozen so it can be processed at a later date into juice, preserves, yogurt, bakery ingredients, and frozen products. Skagit County produces about 3% of the state’s crop. Washington produces about 75% of the total U.S. production of frozen red raspberries, and 95% of that is from Whatcom and Skagit Counties.

Overall prices for the 2014 raspberry crop continued to be good due to poor production world wide and gradually increasing demand. In Skagit County, yields and quality were higher than average for 2014. The majority of raspberries produced in Skagit County are for fresh consumption.



## SEED CROPS

A large variety of vegetable seed crops are grown in the Skagit Valley; the top 3 in both acreage and farmgate value are spinach, cabbage and beet seed. Skagit and Snohomish counties produce nearly 75% of the US supply of spinach and cabbage seed and nearly 95% of the U.S. table beet seed. Skagit County is known as a significant world contributor with approximately 8% of the world's spinach seed, 25% of the world's cabbage seed, and 25% of the world's beet seed. Other vegetable seeds produced in Skagit County include arugula, broccoli, Chinese cabbage, coriander, mustard, parsley, parsnip, rutabaga, swiss chard and turnip.

Vegetable seed production is highly technical and often involves long rotation intervals—sometimes stretching beyond a decade. Skagit County farmers have developed innovative tools and cultural practices along with a close relationship with Washington State University research scientists and Extension professionals to be proactive in managing specialty seed crops challenges.

Vegetable seeds from the Skagit Valley are marketed all over the world. The need for isolation distances to prevent contamination from cross-pollination keeps the vegetable seed acreage below 5,000 acres in Skagit County. Skagit-based seed companies contract some of their acreage with Snohomish, Island, Whatcom, and Clallam county growers. To protect these areas, seed companies joined together in the 1940s to designate where the crops would be grown. On the first Monday in March and again in June the seed companies meet at WSU NWREC for the annual pinning days that determine which crop will be planted and where. It is this spirit of cooperation that keeps the seed industry growing in Skagit County.

Beet Seeds yields rebounded to historical averages in 2014.

Cabbage seed production was reduced by 1/4 due to extreme winter weather conditions in the 2013-2014 growing season.

There are eight vegetable seed companies in Skagit County: Sakata, D&D, Rijk Zwaan, Schafer, Skagit Seed Services, Syngenta, Universal and Vikima Seeds USA.

Some turf and forage grasses for seed are also grown in the valley, vary widely depending upon market volatility.



Spinach Seed Field– Photo by Don McMoran



Beet Seed Field– Photo by Don McMoran



Cabbage Seed Field– Photo by Don McMoran



## STRAWBERRIES

The main varieties are Albion, Shuksan, Totem, Puget Reliance, Hood, Puget Summer, Redcrest and Rainier. Most strawberries are sold to processors. Skagit County produces about 20% of the state's strawberries. Acreage is beginning to increase in Skagit County, based in part to a demand for local production. More growers are changing varieties to capture more of the fresh market by producing everbearing strawberries and using innovative technologies to increase the length of the season.



## WINE GRAPES

The marine climate in the Skagit Valley is similar in many ways to the fine wine producing areas of France and Germany. Research conducted from 1976 to 1988 at WSU NWREC produced a number of white wine grape varieties, which have already proven successful in area vineyards. Current research involves projects in evaluating new wine grape varieties, and rootstock trials evaluating potential for earlier maturity in 'Pinot Noir' grapes.

Currently, there are 7 wineries producing 25,000 cases of wine on approximately one hundred acres valued at over \$1 million.



## ORGANIC FARMING

- ♦ Organic acreage in Skagit County is increasing. In 2013 there were no additional certified organic farmers added to the area; however acreages increased from 5,627 acres in certified organic production in 2011 to 6,710 acres in 2013. Organic production in Skagit County is valued at \$14,238,853 making it the highest organic agricultural producing county in Western Washington.
- ♦ WSU Skagit County Extension has been teaching the Cultivating Success Beginning Farmer and Rancher Course and the Agricultural Entrepreneur bilingual 12 week course in partnership with Skagit Valley College since 2006. To date 365 students have been educated on organic/sustainable agricultural production.

(Source:[http://csanr.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WA\\_OrgStats\\_2013-final.pdf](http://csanr.wsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/WA_OrgStats_2013-final.pdf))



Photo by Don McMoran

## 2014 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

Year	Number of Dairies		Total Pounds Milk Produced	Uniform Average Milk Price/cwt	Annual Total Milk Value	
	Start of Year	End of Year			Total County	Ave Value/Farm
2014	29	29	299,584,645	22.66	\$67,885,881	\$2,340,892
2013	30	29	280,182,987	18.84	\$52,786,475	\$1,759,549
2012	31	30	270,573,960	17.20	\$46,538,721	\$1,551,291
2011	30	31	336,923,400	18.37	\$61,892,829	\$1,996,543
2010	29	30	264,944,400	18.37	\$40,854,426	\$1,408,773
2009	27	28	237,502,107	11.76	\$27,930,248	\$1,034,454
2008	29	27	272,623,494	16.87	\$45,991,583	\$1,585,917
2007	37	29	279,077,546	18.67	\$52,103,778	\$1,796,682
2006	42	37	318,664,000	12.07	\$38,462,745	\$1,039,534
2005	46	44	343,039,400	14.20	\$48,711,595	\$1,107,082

On average, 2014 was a good year for Skagit County Dairy producers. Class 1 (fluid milk) prices were generally over \$22 per hundredweight for the year and dairy numbers remained stable. Anyone who deals with budgets understands that gross revenue is not nearly as important as net revenue, however. Many producers who realized higher revenue made facility improvements and other long-term capital investments that had been delayed due to lack of net income. Although feed prices have moderated somewhat from

recent increases, dairy farm input prices—particularly land costs—remain major barriers for dependable profitability.

Today's remaining dairies have reduced expenses and streamlined operations to be as efficient as possible. Emphasis must be placed on the following aspects of management for continued success and production of high-quality, wholesome, inexpensive dairy products for consumers:

- Use of enterprise budgeting to identify profit and loss centers
- Control of unbudgeted and non-farm expenses
- Attention to animal health, welfare and well being
- Control and recycling of nutrients for optimal plant, soil and water quality
- Reward and retention of high-performing employees to reduce turnover labor costs
- Selection for cows that are healthy and productive in individual farm management systems
- Maximization of on-farm feed production, feed quality and efficiency
- Encouragement of the next generation of dairy producers to continue to balance and address economic, environmental, social, and animal welfare issues to contribute to industry sustainability



## 2014 MILK PRODUCTION DATA FOR SKAGIT COUNTY

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Month	Milk Pounds	Price/cwt	Total Value	Dairies	Milk Income/Dairy
January	25,069,126	\$21.73	\$544,752,108	29	\$18,784,555
February	22,812,979	\$23.22	\$529,717,372	29	\$18,266,116
March	26,109,388	\$23.68	\$618,270,308	29	\$21,319,666
April	25,604,500	\$24.03	\$615,276,135	30	\$20,509,205
May	26,244,587	\$23.42	\$614,648,228	30	\$20,488,274
June	25,588,728	\$22.76	\$582,399,449	29	\$20,082,740
July	26,186,143	\$23.15	\$606,209,210	29	\$20,903,766
August	25,348,253	\$23.69	\$600,500,114	29	\$20,706,900
September	24,105,956	\$24.30	\$585,774,731	29	\$20,199,129
October	24,202,778	\$22.83	\$552,549,422	29	\$19,053,428
November	23,626,982	\$20.18	\$476,792,497	29	\$16,441,121
December	24,685,225	\$18.87	\$465,810,196	29	\$16,062,421
<b>TOTALS</b>	299,584,645	ave \$22.66	\$6,792,699,769	ave. 29	\$232,817,320

Some totals vary due to rounding and/or use of average vs. discreet number

U.S. dairy product consumption statistics reveal interesting trends. The USDA's Economic Research Service reports the following changes between 1975 and 2013:

- ✓ Milk and cream: 28% decrease in consumption
- ✓ **Yogurt: 645% increase in consumption**
- ✓ **Cheese: 89% increase in consumption**
- ✓ Evaporated and condensed milk: 16% decrease in consumption
- ✓ Frozen products: 23% decrease in consumption



Photo by Don McMoran

Sources:

2014 Washington Annual Agriculture Bulletin,  
USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service,  
Northwest Regional Field Office.  
2014 Pacific Northwest Federal Milk Marketing  
Order, USDA Agricultural Marketing Service Dairy  
Programs.

## VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON (ACRES)

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Total Clallam	Total Cowlitz	Total Island	Total Jeffer	Total Lewis	Total Snohomish	Total Whatcom	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
<b>*2014</b>	734	201.6	1622	20	2577.6	NA	NA	50	NA	200	251.5	30	2909.1
<b>*2013</b>	1005	322	2139	25	3491	NA	NA	58.5	I	NA	479	50	4079.5
<b>*2012</b>	733	388	1847	50	3018	NA	NA	43.5	I	NA	531	56.7	3600.2
<b>*2011</b>	668	338.7	1454	68	2460.7	NA	NA	76.3	I	NA	235	NA	2773.0
<b>*2010</b>	512	494.7	1619	44	2669.7	NA	NA	46.05	I	NA	384	NA	3100.75
<b>*2009</b>	305	433.25	1631.5	75	2444.75	NA	NA	69.5	NA	NA	315	NA	2829.25
<b>*2008</b>	457	381	1456	20	2314	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	367	NA	2741
<b>*2007</b>	530	400	1493	80	2503	NA	NA	73	NA	NA	272	26	2874
<b>*2006</b>	519	352	1680	69	2620	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	458	NA	3138
<b>2003</b>	316	93	790	20	1,219	45	-	34	10	-	272	93	1,663
<b>2002</b>	313	95	770	26	1,204	71	-	105		110	234	102	1,826
<b>2001</b>	710	349	1,112	190	2,361	78	-	126		194	417	79	3,255
<b>2000</b>	763	410	2,412	215	3,800	100	-	256		146	661	112	5,075
<b>1999</b>	771	526	2,630	217	4,145	94	-	128		120	778	52	5,317
<b>1998</b>	537	859	1,824	355	3,575	68	-	125		71	527	48	4,414

Beginning in 2006 production numbers are based on "Pinned" acres by seed company representation at WSU NWREC on March 1st and June 1st.

**VEGETABLE SEED PRODUCTION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON  
(DOLLARS)**

Harvest Year	Skagit County					Clallam	Cowlitz	Island	Jeffer-son	Lewis	Snohomish	What-com	Total Western WA
	Beet	Cabbage	Spinach	Misc.	Total Skagit								
2014	2,202,000	2,016,000	4,866,000	60,000	9,144,000	NA	NA	150,000	NA	800,000	1,004,000	150,000	11,248,000
2013	1,512,500	1,932,000	5,347,500	62,500	8,854,500	NA	NA	292,500	2500	NA	2,395,000	250,000	11,794,500
2012	1,899,00	1,940,00	5,541,000	75,000	9,455,00	NA	NA	217,500	1500	NA	1,703,00	388,500	11,765,500
2011	2,004,000	1,693,500	4847,000	102,000	8,646,500	NA	NA	381,500	1500	NA	705,000	NA	9,734,500
2010	1,536,000	2,473,500	4,857,000	132,000	8,998,500	NA	NA	230,250	NA	NA	1,152,000	NA	10,380,750
2009	915,000	2,166,250	4,894,500	225,000	8,200,750	NA	NA	347,500	NA	NA	1,017,000	NA	9,565,250
2008	1,143,300	1,905,500	4,366,599	100,000	7,515,399	NA	NA	300,000	NA	NA	1,100,100	NA	8,915,499
2007	953,640	1,198,500	2,238,750	120,000	4,510,890	NA	NA	219,000	NA	NA	527,700	78,000	5,335,590
2006	519,000	352,800	1,680,000	39,000	2,620,800	-	-	180,450	-	-	458,000	120,300	3,379,550
2003	560,507	346,429	828,369	62,550	1,797,855	269,907	-	183,771	8,025	-	437,676	133,782	2,831,016
2002	630,897	492,849	1,152,622	17,906	2,294,274	250,682	-	290,534	-	129,969	588,275	204,560	3,758,294
2001	1,481,266	1,501,946	2,099,945	178,890	5,262,047	374,673	-	545,636	-	121,853	973,485	52,427	7,330,121
2000	1,192,711	2,036,666	3,345,547	606,589	7,181,513	319,102	-	847,693	-	193,710	1,773,375	265,203	10,580,596
1999	1,100,635	1,577,963	4,524,822	363,083	7,566,053	348,384	-	235,031	-	178,451	2,416,114	89,789	10,834,272
1998	881,875	1,441,628	1,665,009	560,290	4,548,802	278,554	-	205,377	-	78,193	639,661	55,268	5,805,855
1997	1,769,864	3,533,368	2,464,127	512,274	8,279,633	268,463	45,525	205,572	-	73,120	490,712	-	9,363,025

## SKAGIT COUNTY CROP ACREAGE SUMMARY \*

CROP	2014	2010	2000	1990	1978
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	75	100	373	103	n/a
Blackberries	325	60	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	2220	1,200	625	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	0	200	800	468	890
Cucumbers (processing)	500	1000	2,396	1,900	1,094
Field Crops <sup>(2)</sup>	35,000	35,000	22,650	33,050	25,000
Grass Seed	800	650	1,081	xxx	xxx
Misc. Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	4,000	4,000	3623	665	975
Peas (processing)	0	0	7233	14,880	15,898
Potatoes	14,000	10,500	9,500	7,250	1,520
Rasp/Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	420	524
Raspberries	500	1,300	1441	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	400	475	390	615	550
Sweet Corn, processing	0	0	0	616	1,098
Vegetable Seed <sup>(4)</sup>	2577.6	2669.7	3800	3,375	4,891

- 1) Includes no nonbearing trees.
- 2) Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn & grass silage, grass, oats, pea hay, small grain, & wheat.
- 3) Refer to Crops Grown in Skagit County on page 22.
- 4) Vegetable Seed includes beet, cabbage, swiss chard and spinach.

\* Figures shown are unofficial estimates based on input from processing companies, growers, agricultural organizations and agencies, field representatives, news articles, and Extension Agent experience. Crops grown by fewer than three producers are combined to protect confidentiality. Official agricultural figures are collected every five years by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The last Census of Agriculture was collected for the year 2007 and can be viewed at the following web site: [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Getting\\_Started/Guide\\_to\\_Census\\_Products/index.asp](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2007/Getting_Started/Guide_to_Census_Products/index.asp)

## TYPICAL YIELDS (per/acre)

Apples	40 bins
Blueberries	6-10 tons
Flower bulbs	50,000 bulbs
Cucumbers	7 ton-10 tons
Green peas	2 tons
Potatoes	15-20 tons
Raspberries	3.5-4.5 tons
Ryegrass seed	1500 lbs



**STATISTICAL SUMMARIES: \***  
**Dollar Value to Producer**

Crop	2014	2010	2000	1990	1978
Apples <sup>(1)</sup>	100,000	200,000	865,200	592,250	xxx
Blackberries	1,350,000	30,000	n/a	n/a	n/a
Blueberries	10,500,000	6,000,000	3,011,646	xxx	xxx
Carrots (processing)	0	600,000	985,600	493,794	1,181,157
Cucumbers (processing)	500,000	1,500,000	5,220,773	4,944,034	1,920,930
Dairy (milk sold)	67,885,881	40,854,426	43,895,519	53,122,168	23,885,268
Eggs and Fryers <sup>(2)</sup>	25,000,000	25,000,000	12,309,000	14,016,877	5,177,500
Field Crops <sup>(3)</sup>	30,000,000	30,000,000	9,423,600	12,844,718	2,575,000
Grass Seed	780,000	487,500	545,000	xxx	xxx
Livestock	12,000,000	7,500,000	8,123,000	4,400,000	5,493,283
Misc. Crops <sup>(4)</sup>	20,000,000	20,000,000	16,944,598	2,046,600	176,000
Nursery & Greenhouse, Floriculture & Sod	55,000,000	50,000,000	56,207,469	24,000,000	4,900,000
Peas (processing)	0	0	3,044,092	5,640,903	7,117,743
Potatoes	60,000,000	52,500,000	52,725,000	33,746,600	2,032,800
Raspberries/ Blueberries	See separate listings	See separate listings	See separate listings	1,179,450	1,789,058
Raspberries	4,000,000	8,400,000	4,143,347	xxx	xxx
Strawberries	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,725,643	2,496,280	1,233,314
Sweet Corn (processing)	0	0	0	187,828	1,187,462
Vegetable Seed <sup>(5)</sup>	9,144,000	10,380,750	7,566,503	3,144,352	1,828,968
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>298,259,881</b>	<b>255,922,676</b>	<b>227,351,000</b>	<b>165,141,854</b>	<b>63,181,133</b>



Photo by Don McMoran

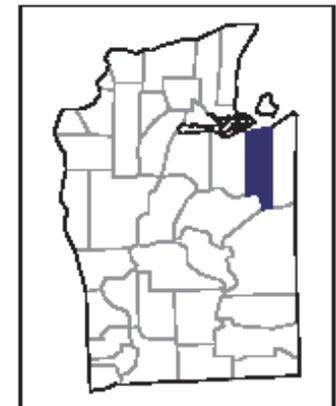
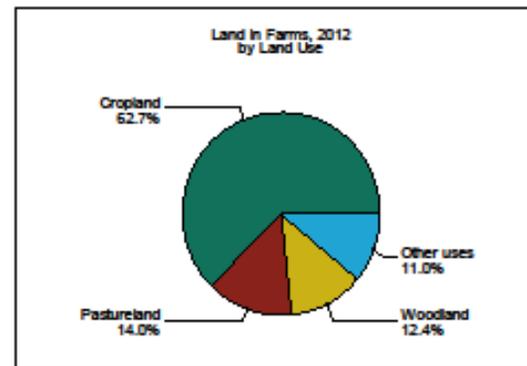
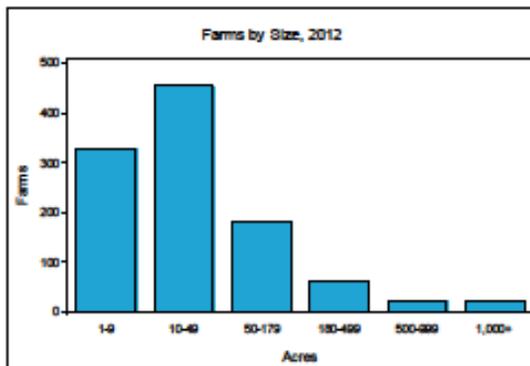
1. Includes no acres nonbearing trees.
2. State public disclosure restrictions prevent the publishing of “farm-gate” values. The figure for Eggs & Fryers reflects the “overall value” of the industry to the county
3. Field Crops include alfalfa, barley, corn & grass silage, grass, oats, pea hay, small grain, & wheat.
4. Refers to Crops Grown in Skagit County on page 23.
5. Vegetable Seed includes, beet, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, rutabaga, spinach.

*\*Figures shown are unofficial estimates based on input from processing companies, growers, agricultural organizations and agencies, field representatives, news articles, and Extension Agent experience. Crops grown by fewer than three producers are combined to protect confidentiality. Official agricultural figures are collected every five years by USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service. The last Census of Agriculture was collected for the year 2002 and can be viewed at the following web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/census/>. For state information, contact Washington Agricultural Statistics (360/902-1940).*

	2012	2007	% change
<b>Number of Farms</b>	1,074	1,215	- 12
<b>Land in Farms</b>	106,538 acres	108,541 acres	- 2
<b>Average Size of Farm</b>	99 acres	89 acres	+ 11
<b>Market Value of Products Sold</b>	\$272,275,000	\$258,248,000	+ 6
Crop Sales \$201,007,000 (74 percent)			
Livestock Sales \$71,268,000 (26 percent)			
<b>Average Per Farm</b>	\$253,515	\$210,904	+ 20
<b>Government Payments</b>	\$1,442,000	\$630,000	+ 129
<b>Average Per Farm Receiving Payments</b>	\$12,121	\$5,835	+ 108

Skagit County  
 Washington

COUNTY PROFILE  
 2012 CENSUS OF AGRICULTURE



## COMMERCIAL CROPS GROWN IN SKAGIT COUNTY

### Fruit

Blackberry  
 Blueberry  
 Boysenberry\*  
 Currant\*  
 Lingonberry\*  
 Loganberry\*  
 Marionberry\*  
 Raspberry  
 Strawberry  
 Tayberry\*  
 Watermelon\*  
 Wine Grape

### Tree Fruit

Apple  
 Asian pear\*  
 Cherry\*  
 Filbert  
 Peach\*  
 Pear\*  
 Plum\*

### Vegetables

Artichoke  
 Asparagus and asparagus root\*  
 Basil\*  
 Bean\*  
 Beet\*  
 Bok Choy\*  
 Broccoli  
 Brussels sprout\*

Burdock\*  
 Cabbage  
 Cantaloupe\*  
 Carrot  
 Cauliflower  
 Chives\*  
 Cucumber  
 Garlic\*  
 Green pea\*  
 Hothouse tomato\*  
 Kale\*  
 Kohlrabi\*  
 Leek  
 Lettuce  
 Mizuna\*  
 Onion\*  
 Parsley\*  
 Parsnip\*  
 Pepper\*  
 Potatoes  
 Pumpkin  
 Radish\*  
 Rhubarb\*  
 Salad Mix\*  
 Spinach\*  
 Summer squash\*  
 Sweet corn  
 Swiss chard\*  
 Tomatillo\*  
 Tomatoes\*  
 Turnip\*  
 Winter squash\*

### Seed Crops - Vegetable

Arugula  
 Broccoli-raab  
 Brussels sprout  
 Cabbage  
 Cauliflower  
 Chinese cabbage  
 Chinese kale  
 Chinese mustard  
 Coriander  
 India mustard  
 Kale  
 Kohlrabi  
 Parsley  
 Parsnip  
 Radish  
 Rutabaga  
 Spinach  
 Swiss chard  
 Table Beet  
 Turnip

### Seed Crops - Other

Fava bean  
 Ryegrass  
 Tall fescue

### Small Grains

Barley  
 Buckwheat  
 Cereal rye  
 Oats  
 Triticale  
 Wheat

### Forage Crops

Alfalfa  
 Field corn  
 Silage grass

### Flowers and Bulbs

Daffodil  
 Dahlia  
 Iris  
 Lily  
 Tulip

### Miscellaneous Crops

Bamboo  
 Christmas trees  
 Dill\*  
 Fennel\*  
 Gourds\*  
 Hybrid poplar  
 Marijuana  
 Sod  
 Tea\*

\*Less than ten acres

**ORGANIZATIONS, BUSINESSES AND AGENCIES  
SERVING SKAGIT COUNTY AGRICULTURE**

Ag Alternative  
Agrilink Foods  
Bio Huma Netics, Inc.  
Brim Tractor  
Cascadian Farms & Muir Glen  
Cucumber Industry Advisory Committee  
D & D Farms  
Farm Service Administration  
Farmers Equipment Co.  
Gielow Pickles  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
North Washington Implement  
NW Ag Business Center  
NW Agricultural Research Foundation  
NW Bulb Growers Assn.  
NW Food Processors Assn.  
Puget Sound Seed Growers Assn.  
Rijk Zwaan Seed  
Sakata Seed Company  
Sakuma Bros.  
Schafer Agriculture Services  
Skagit Conservation District  
Skagit County Cattlemen's Assn.  
Skagit County Dairy Federation  
Skagit County Farm Bureau  
Skagit County Farmland Legacy Program  
Skagit County Horticultural Pest and Disease  
Skagit Dairy Women  
Skagit Farmers Supply

Skagit Seed Services  
Skagit Valley Red Potato Growers Assn.  
Skagitonians to Preserve Farmland  
Small Fruit Advisory Committee  
Sorensen Seed Co.  
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
USDA Farm Service Agency  
Tree Fruit Industry Advisory Committee  
Twin City Foods  
Valley Pride Sales  
WA Blueberry Commission  
WA Lettuce & Vegetable Co.  
WA Red Raspberry Commission  
WA Seed Potato Commission  
WA State Dairy Federation  
WA State Potato Commission  
WA Strawberry Commission  
Washington Tractor  
Western WA Agricultural Assn.  
Western WA Fruit Research Foundation  
Western WA Small Seed Advisory Committee  
Wilbur Ellis Company  
WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern  
Washington Research & Extension Center  
WSU Clallam County Extension  
WSU Jefferson County Extension  
WSU Skagit County Extension



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for their assistance  
in the gathering of data for this report:***

Ag Tech Services  
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Day Creek Poultry Farms  
Draper Valley Farms, Inc.  
Economic Development Association of Skagit County  
Farm Service Agency  
Gielow Pickles Inc.  
Hedlin Farms  
Hughes Farms  
Knutzen Farms  
McMoran Farms  
Merritt's Apples  
Mike and Jean's Berry Farm  
National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration  
Norm Nelson, Inc.  
Northwest Agriculture Business Center  
North Fork Nursery  
Ralph's Greenhouse  
Sakuma Bros. Farm  
Sakata Seed Company  
Schafer Ag Services, LLC  
Seminis Vegetable Seed Co.  
Skagit Farmers Supply  
Skagit Seed Services  
Skagit Valley Herald  
Sterling Hills Potato Farm  
Syngenta Seeds, Inc.  
Universal Seed, Inc.

US Department of Commerce  
US Department of Labor  
Valley Pride Sales  
Vikima Seed, USA  
Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
Washington Bulb Co., Inc.  
Washington Fryer Commission  
Washington Red Raspberry Commission  
Washington State Employment Security Department  
Washington Strawberry Commission  
Western Washington Agriculture Association  
Wilbur Ellis Company  
WSU Mount Vernon Northwestern Washington Research  
and Extension Center



Photo by Don McMoran