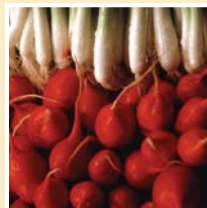




Looking out for future generations



Protecting farmland helps maintain **fish** and **wildlife** habitat and provides **beautiful, natural aesthetic** value which, blended with urban elements, diversifies the **lifestyle that we cherish** in the Pacific Northwest.



Consuming locally produced food is the most responsible, **healthy** and **sustainable** way to eat and supports our local **economy**.



Good farming practices **protect** and conserve **natural resources** — our soil, clean water and clean air.



All of these actions protect our land and our **quality of life for future generations**.

**King County
Agricultural
Commission Meetings**
The second Thursday
of each month. Call for time
and location: 206-296-1471

Did you know?

In King County...

- the total value of agriculture products sold annually is nearly \$94 million.
- there are approximately 1,100 farms and 40 licensed dairies.
- there are approximately 25 farms still in existence that were established before 1900.
- there are approximately 20,000 horses, 12,000 mature dairy cows and approximately 1,000 sheep.
- the average dairy farmer produces enough milk for nearly 30,000 people per year.
- there are 61,500 acres – approximately 5% – in the unincorporated areas that are farmland and 42,000 acres of those are in designated Agriculture Production Districts (APD).
- there are 30 Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farms and 17 Farmers Markets – and those numbers are growing.
- the horse population is one of the highest in Washington.
- the Farmland Preservation Program, created by voters in 1979, is one of the first such programs in the United States.
- the development rights to over 13,000 acres of farmland is owned and preserved for farming through the Farmland Preservation Program.
- the Farmland Preservation Program has received grants totaling nearly \$1.4 million from the United States Department of Agriculture Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program to assist in purchasing farmland development rights.
- the Agriculture Commission meets monthly to discuss agriculture related issues and agricultural land use.
- all citizens have at least one thing in common. We all eat!



King County

Department of
Natural Resources and Parks
Water and Land Resources Division

Agriculture Program
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600
Seattle, WA 98104
206-296-6519

Brochure designed by
King County DNRP WLR Visual
Communications & Web Unit

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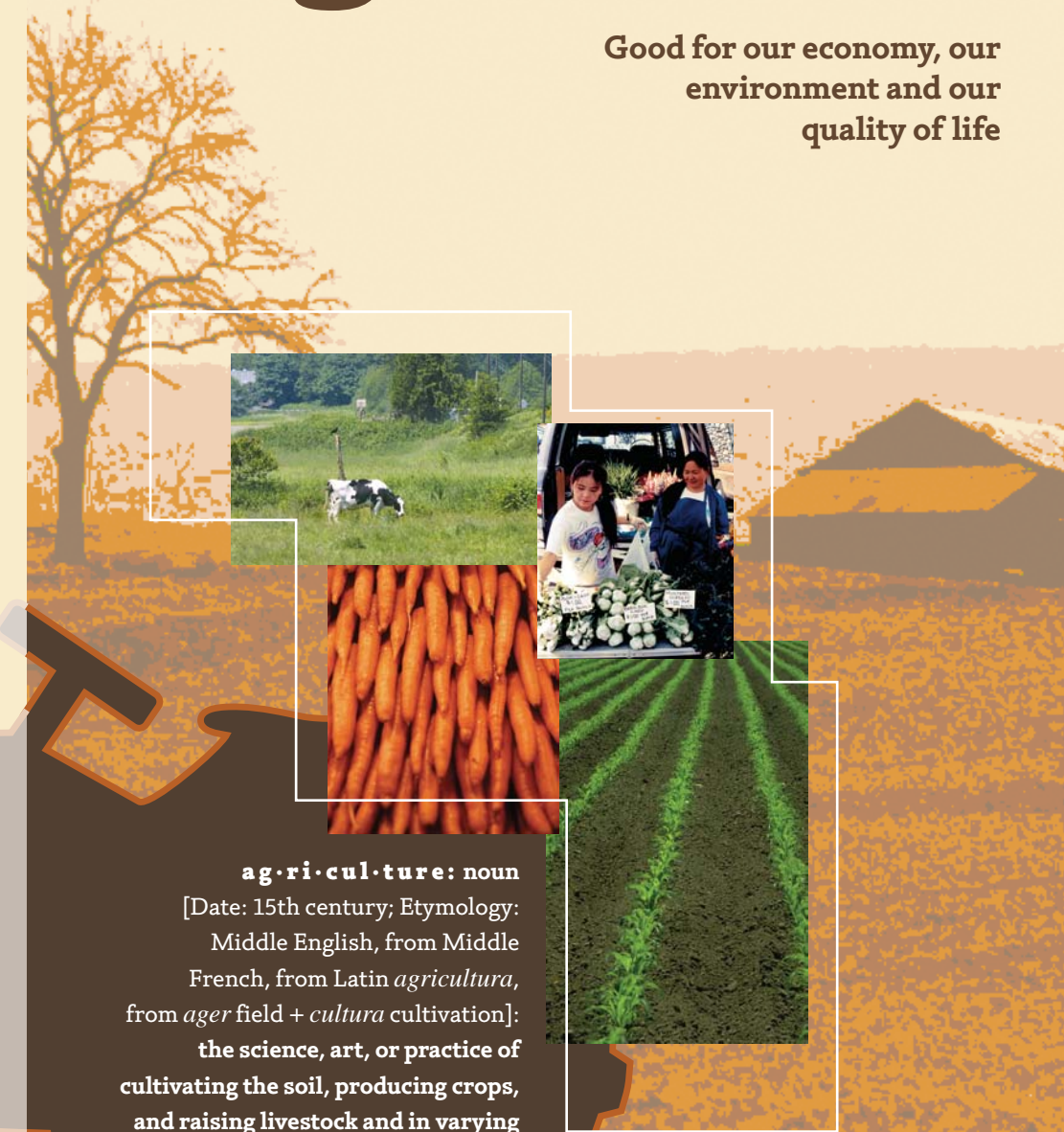
This information will be made available in alternate formats for individuals with disabilities upon request. Call 206-296-6519 or TTY 711.

<http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/agricult.htm>



King County Agriculture

Good for our economy, our
environment and our
quality of life



ag·ri·cul·ture: noun
[Date: 15th century; Etymology:
Middle English, from Middle
French, from Latin *agricultura*,
from *ager* field + *cultura* cultivation];
**the science, art, or practice of
cultivating the soil, producing crops,
and raising livestock and in varying
degrees the preparation and
marketing of the resulting products.**



King County

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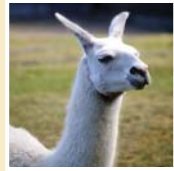
The King County Agriculture Program



A history of farms, food and livestock



King County has historically been a productive agricultural region with dairies, livestock operations, crop farms and berry fields. The rich agricultural areas in Enumclaw and the Kent, Auburn, Rainier, Sammamish and Snoqualmie valleys once supported hundreds of families and provided an abundant local food source for thousands. The Kent Valley was known for having some of the best agricultural soils in the world. Today, except for approximately 1,000 acres of farmland that have been permanently protected, parking lots and industrial centers cover most of the valley.



Increased land prices, regulations, urban pressures and drainage problems have all significantly contributed to the reduction of farmland in King County; however, farming is still a vital presence. King County has over 42,000 acres in its Agriculture Production Districts (APDs) – areas designated for agriculture by the King County Comprehensive Plan under the Growth Management Act. In addition, there remain thousands of acres still viable as working farms in the urban and rural areas of the county. The King County Agriculture Program supports farming within the APDs and throughout the County.



What we do for you and what agriculture does for all of us



Because the benefits of thriving agriculture are widespread, King County developed a program to encourage, maintain and support agricultural activity in our region. The services available are designed to work with you – as members of the agriculture community – and for you – as citizens of King County.



Working for you and with you

Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program

206-296-1979



The Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program (ADAP) provides technical and financial help to farmers to maintain agricultural watercourses and preserve water quality in our region. ADAP works with farmers to avoid harmful effects to fish, especially those listed under the Endangered Species Act. Program information, monitoring reports, and maps of agricultural watercourses are available online. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/waterres/fnd/>

Farmland Preservation Program

206-296-1470



As of 2003, more than 13,000 acres of King County farmland have been permanently protected through the Farmland Preservation Program (FPP). The FPP began in 1979 when voters approved an initiative to preserve rapidly diminishing farmland by authorizing the County to purchase development rights, which it is still doing today. By voluntarily selling development rights, property owners agree to covenants, which restrict their land use to agriculture or open space uses and limit housing density. This program permanently preserves agricultural lands that could otherwise be susceptible to sprawl and other types of urban development. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/farmpp.htm>

FarmLink

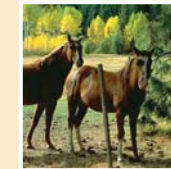
206-296-7824



A joint project of the King County Agricultural Commission and the Snohomish County Agricultural Advisory Board, FarmLink is a means to help ensure that working farms remain in agricultural production and to help facilitate the transition of farms to the next generation. FarmLink connects people wanting to get started in agriculture with farmers and landowners who are committed to establishing the next generation of producers. FarmLink connects people with the resources and technical expertise necessary to achieve that goal. <http://wafarmlink.org>

Livestock Program

206-296-1471 or 206-263-6566



The Livestock Program supports the raising and keeping of livestock in the County in an environmentally sound manner. Technical assistance on compliance with the King County Livestock Management Ordinance: manure management; stream and wetland setbacks; livestock densities; and clean water diversion is provided through phone calls, farm visits, presentations and flyers. The program also includes cost-share assistance for implementing best management practices through a farm management plan. Information for cost sharing on practices such as fencing, manure management and pasture management are also available online. <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wlr/lands/livestoc.htm>

Puget Sound Fresh

206-296-7824

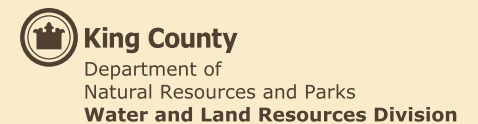


Puget Sound Fresh encourages consumers, wholesalers, retailers and restaurant owners to seek out and purchase locally grown products. Originally created by the King County Agriculture Commission, Puget Sound Fresh led the effort to keep farmers farming and that has now expanded to Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap and other counties. Purchasing locally grown products directly supports King County farms, helping to maintain the agricultural economy and the conservation of farmland. Find out how to add your farm, crops or products to a searchable database or where to buy Puget Sound Fresh products today. www.pugetsoundfresh.org

Horticulture Program

206-296-7824 or 206-296-1926

King County also offers expanded technical and cost-share assistance to horticulture operations.



“Let us never forget that the cultivation of the earth is the most important labor of man. When tillage begins other arts follow. The farmers, therefore, are the founders of civilization.” ~Daniel Webster