

July 24th, 2008

SJC Food Producers:

Four local and regional agricultural organizations have collaborated to develop the enclosed survey. The Agricultural Resources Committee of SJC (ARC), the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild (Ag Guild), Washington State University Extension in San Juan County (WSU Extension SJC), and the Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC) have each been working to gather information on local food production for the purpose of strengthening local agriculture. The NABC is providing financial support for this effort.

The ARC (<http://www.sjcarc.org/>) is collecting data for a countywide Foodshed Map that will include all acreage in active agricultural use, farm and garden locations, and the food produced. The ARC wants to know how much food is actually being produced in the islands, including how many gardens are feeding how many people. The ARC will have a first draft of the Foodshed Map on display at the SJC Fair.

The non-profit Ag Guild (<http://www.sjiagguild.com/>) is in the planning and development stages of a multi-use agricultural facility on San Juan Island. Phase one of the project is a Permanent Farmers' Market (PFM). The PFM would allow for expansion from the current farmers' market, held on Saturdays in summer and infrequently and at different sites in winter, to a year-round, multi-day-per-week farmers' market at a permanent location. The PFM would serve as both a model for future PFMs in SJC and as a retail outlet for producers countywide. Farmers from all islands who sell at their own farmers' markets on Saturdays could expand their direct sales at the PFM's mid-week and winter markets.

Product storage would also be available to farmers from all islands. Subsequent phases are planned to include refrigeration and frozen storage, distribution space (i.e., for CSAs and/or restaurant pick-up), value added processing, and possibly root cellar storage space. This survey is being conducted to specifically identify processing, storage, and other infrastructure needs of SJC farmers and food processors in order to best serve producers throughout the islands.

The Ag Guild is also working on a farm-to-school project that includes the San Juan Island School District's school lunch program, and may include other school districts in SJC. This survey will help the Ag Guild identify food producers that would be interested in participating in this project.

WSU Extension SJC (<http://sanjuan.wsu.edu/>) is currently working with other county Extension offices around the state on a comprehensive food system analysis. The data gathered from community food assessments will be used to determine local, regional, and statewide food production capacity and to promote local agriculture as a means of feeding local populations and promoting economic development. Surprisingly, comprehensive data of this kind does not yet exist in Washington State.

The NABC (<http://www.agbizcenter.org/>) is surveying food producers throughout the 12-county Puget Sound. A key project of NABC is to help create a regional processing

center to be shared by Northwest Washington agricultural producers. This center would include co-packing facilities for use by local farms and related businesses. Your input is essential in helping NABC assess the feasibility of and demand for a regional processing center.

Each of these organizations is seeking information for the reasons outlined above. Rather than shower you with surveys, however, we have created one comprehensive questionnaire. We sincerely hope that you will make the time to complete and return this form. Your answers will help us to map farmland in San Juan County. It will help to determine our current and potential food production capacity. It will also help to determine specific ways to encourage and expand local agriculture.

The survey is available on-line at <http://www.sjcarc.org/> and <http://www.sjiagguild.com/>.

You may return the completed survey

- In the enclosed, self-addressed envelope (Ag Guild, PO Box 1945, Friday Harbor, WA 98250)
- Via email to Lovel Pratt, Ag Guild PFM Project Director at lovel@rockisland.com
- To the Conservation District office, 540 Guard Street, Suite 150 in Friday Harbor
- To the Ag Tent at the SJC Fair

If you prefer you can complete your survey by calling the Conservation District office at 378-6621 and giving your answers over the phone or making arrangements for a personal visit to your farm from a representative of one of our organizations, and we'll note your survey responses for you. We really do want to hear from you!

Please return your completed questionnaire by August 18! If there is some information you prefer not to share, feel free to skip those questions. We would rather receive an incomplete response from you than no response at all. Please know that ALL SURVEY RESPONSES WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL.

Thank you for your valuable and much appreciated participation!



Eliza Buck
ARC Coordinator



Tim Clark
ARC Farmland Preservation Coordinator



Lovel Pratt
Ag Guild PFM Project Director



Rick Reed
NABC Project Manager



Tom Schultz
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WSU Extension Coordinator for Agriculture

San Juan County Food Producer Survey

Data gathered from this survey will be reported anonymously, and ALL SURVEY RESPONSES WILL REMAIN CONFIDENTIAL. You may complete the survey anonymously. However, your farm location will help us to map farmland in San Juan County and to determine the county's current and potential future production capacity.

Farm/business name:

Farmer/food producer name(s):

Island:

Email:

Web site:

Phone:

Fax:

Mobile:

Mailing address:

Street address (if different):

If you are a food producer/grower, please answer the following:

1. How much land do you farm? _____
2. Do you own or lease the land you farm? Own ___ Lease ___
3. Do you live on the land you farm? Yes ___ No ___
4. Do you have access to additional acreage you could farm if demand for your product were greater? Yes ___ No ___
5. If so, how much more land could you farm? _____
6. Distance from your farm to a farmers' market _____

7. What and how much do you produce? (acreage and/or lbs./year, units/year, head/year, etc.) Hay___ Cows___ Sheep___ Goats___ Pigs___
 Chickens___ Horses___ Llamas___ Alpacas___ Pasture___ Grain___
 Orchard___ Nursery___ Trellised Fruit___ Market Garden___
 Fallow___ Value-added Products___
 Other___

8. Infrastructure -- Perimeter Fencing (# of acres)___ Barns (#)___ Out-
 buildings (#)___ Total Square Footage of Barns & Out-buildings ___ Enclosed
 Feeding Area (# and approx square footage)___ Pond (# and total acreage)___
 Grazed Forest (total acreage)___ Farmstand (total square footage)___
 Farm-worker Housing (please describe)___
 Equipment-- Farm Truck (#) ___ Tractor (#)___ Tractor Equipment (please
 describe)___ Grain Production/Storage
 Equipment (please describe:)___ Dairy
 Facility (yes/no)___

9. What is your land and micro-climate particularly well-suited to produce? (check
 all that apply) Pasture___ Grain___ Hay___ Vegetables___
 Orchard___ Other___

10. How would you define your growing practices?

- Organic, Certified ___
- Organic practices, not certified ___
- No till (restricted tillage systems that limit tillage to the area around the plant) ___
- Conventional ___
- Other ___ (Please specify _____)

11. Are there other certifications or Eco labels you use with your farm product?

- Islands Certified Local Program _____
- Food Alliance Certified ___
- Salmon Safe ___
- Other ___ (please specify _____)

12. Where/how do you sell your product (wholesale, retail, at farmers' markets, through a CSA, etc.): _____

13. Is all or a portion of your farm product processed (i.e. "value-added")? Yes ___
No ___

14. If "Yes," what value-added product are you producing?

15. If "Yes," where is it processed?

- On farm ___
- Off-farm ___

16. If on-farm, are you HACCP certified? (Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point/Plan) certified? Yes ___ No ___

17. If off-farm, please identify the name, address, and contact information of the processing facility: _____

18. Do you know of a local processing center (including dairy) that is presently under-utilized or that could be expanded? Yes ___ No ___

19. If “yes,” please provide facility name, address, and contact info:

20. If you are not presently processing your farm products, would this possibility encourage you to grow other crops or start additional farm enterprises? Yes ___
No ___

21. If yes, please explain: _____

22. How would you characterize your interest in having access to a shared processing facility within reasonable distance from your farm?

Not interested ___ Somewhat interested ___ Very interested ___ Uncertain ___
(If “uncertain,” please explain) _____

23. If interested, how far would you be willing to transport your product for processing? Other island (specify island) _____ Mainland (give roundtrip miles you would be willing to travel from Anacortes ferry landing) _____

24. Current value-added processing facility needed for _____ (product(s)) and type of processing equipment needed: _____

25. Potential future value-added processing facility needed for _____ (product(s)) and type of processing equipment needed: _____

26. What is the approximate annual dollar value of your value-added production: \$ _____ What portion of your farm products are processed? _____

27. If you aren’t already producing value-added products, are you interested in learning more about transitioning to value-added production? Yes ___ No ___

28. If “yes,” what value-added products interest you? _____

29. Current refrigeration storage needed: _____ cubic feet in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
30. Potential future refrigeration storage needed: _____ cubic feet in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
31. Current frozen storage needed: _____ cubic feet in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
32. Potential future frozen storage needed: _____ cubic feet in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
33. Do you need help distributing your farm products? Yes ___ No ___
34. If “yes,” please be specific: _____
35. Prior to WA State Ferries policy changes related to Homeland Security, did you previously transport ag products on the ferry, unattended? Yes ___ No ___ If “Yes,” did the loss of that distribution option affect your business? Yes ___ No ___
36. If “Yes,” please explain how: _____
37. Current distribution space needed: _____ square feet _____ day(s) per week in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
38. Potential future distribution space needed: _____ square feet _____ day(s) per week in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
39. Current root cellar space needed: _____ square feet in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))
40. Potential future root cellar space needed: _____ square feet in _____ (list month(s) of the year) for _____ (list product(s))

41. If there is a Permanent Farmers' Market (PFM) on SJI would you sell at the
Spring/Summer/Fall Saturday farmers' market? Yes ___ No ___

Spring/Summer/Fall mid-week market? Yes ___ No ___

Winter market (on Saturdays)? Yes ___ No ___

42. If there is a PFM of SJI would you use that facility's

Refrigeration storage? Yes ___ No ___

Freezer storage? Yes ___ No ___

Distribution space? Yes ___ No ___

Root cellar space? Yes ___ No ___

43. Are there other services or facilities that you feel are needed in the PFM on SJI?

44. Would you be willing to write letters of support for potential grants or gifts
needed to develop this facility or to serve on an Ag Guild committee? Yes ___
No ___

45. Would you be interested in participating in a Farm-to-School project? Yes ___
No ___

46. If "yes," do you have product available during the school year (September –
June)? Yes ___ No ___ And would you be willing to grow food under contract at a
guaranteed institutional market rate? Yes ___ No ___

47. Would you be interested in assistance with marketing your product?

Yes ___ No ___

48. If "yes", please explain: _____

49. What are the primary obstacles to making your farming operation more profitable (please be as specific as possible)?

50. Do you need more farm labor help? Yes ___ No ___

51. Do you need help marketing your product(s)? Yes ___ No ___

52. If “yes,” please explain: _____

53. Do you need help creating business plans or other assistance aimed at securing bank loans? Yes ___ No ___

54. If “yes,” please explain: _____

55. What one thing would be of most value in making your farming operation more profitable? _____

Please add other comments or information on the back of this page.

THANK YOU for your time responding to this survey!
Please reply by August 18th!

Electronic copies of this survey can be sent to Lovel Pratt, Ag Guild Project Director for the PFM at lovel@rockisland.com

Hard copies can be sent to:
San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild
PO Box 1945
Friday Harbor, WA 98250

You may return the completed questionnaire

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- To the Ag Tent at the SJC Fair

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