

From: [Oliver Orjiako](#)
To: [Sonja Wiser](#)
Subject: FW: Clark County Farms are historically small Hobby Farms or small Horse Farms
Date: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 11:54:14 AM

FYI for the record. Thanks.

From: Clark County Citizens United, Inc. <cccuinc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 24, 2023 11:34 AM
To: Karen Bowerman <Karen.Bowerman@clark.wa.gov>; Gary Medvigy <Gary.Medvigy@clark.wa.gov>; Michelle Belkot <Michelle.Belkot@clark.wa.gov>; Glen Yung <Glen.Yung@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Kathleen Otto <Kathleen.Otto@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>
Subject: Clark County Farms are historically small Hobby Farms or small Horse Farms

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Clark County Council
P.O. Box 5000
Vancouver, Washington 98666

October 24, 2023

FOR THE PUBLIC RECORD and the Comprehensive Plan update

Re: Clark County farms are historically small hobby farms and small horse farms

Dear Councilors,

Clark County Citizens United, Inc. encourages the councilors to stop by the Wilco farm store and pick up a copy of the Clark County Executive Horse Council publication. It is a nicely arranged free booklet that is an excellent resource guide for the horse community and other animal communities as well. What has the Clark County Council done for this important business, as well as those wanting a small family farm with economic opportunity for both?

There are all kinds of farms in Clark County and they are not only food farms. The majority of the farms in the county are self sufficient hobby farms, small animal farms and horse farms. Chickens, goats, sheep, llamas and most importantly, horses need space in the rural area. Such farms are a multi-million dollar business that has supported Clark County for many years, yet, where is the support for them?

These farms range from 2.5 to 10 acres and are scattered throughout the rural areas of Clark County. They are farms that are active in FFA (Future Farmers of America), 4-H, and compete and show their animals at local and state fairs. They generate income for the family and the county. They financially support local business of all kinds. They are the heart and soul of the Clark County Fair, yet they get little notice from the policy makers. Many people want to have a home and live this lifestyle in

the rural areas, and yet this Council is preventing them from doing so, by way of static large lot zoning. Such large lots are not affordable for them to realize their lifestyle dream of owning a horse or raising these other animals.

These communities need to be recognized in the Clark County Comprehensive Land Use Plan, as a very important aspect of our local rural economy. The food farms being discussed by the Council, add very little economic value to the county, as most of them show a loss, on their IRS income tax forms. On the other hand, the small animal farms and horse farms, spend large amounts of money to support their activity with no expectation of realizing a tax advantage.

It's time the Council admits that food farms are not the face of farming in Clark County. Small, hobby farms and horse farms are the norm, and have been for many decades. The people of the community and those thinking to come to Clark County, are looking for just for that type of land, housing and location. Clark County has none to offer them. If one tried to create such a farm, they would pay dearly for a large lot parcel, and small lot housing is not available in Clark County.

The GMA says the counties must have a variety of affordable housing in the rural areas and it does not confine it to Rural Centers, which were to be the rural commercial districts, according to the GMA. The existing Comprehensive Plan does not reflect that mandate when the rural area only grew .01% in the last five years or more. The adopted policy for the ratio between urban and rural was supposed to be 90/10, but the county is no where near that allowance. The Council must look seriously at the faulty housing opportunities in rural areas and make corrections.

Sincerely,

Carol Levanen, Exec. Secretary

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