

From: [Bart Catching](#)
To: [Jude Wait](#); [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
Cc: [Lauren Henricksen](#); [Sue Marshall](#); [Diane Dempster](#); [Dillon Haggerty](#); [Mo McKenna](#); [Ann Foster](#); [Monica Zazueta](#); [Gabriela Mendoza Ewing](#); [Edward Hamilton Rosales](#); [Madeline Brooks](#); [Danielle Jochums](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Oliver Orjiako](#); [Wil Fuentes](#); [Matt Little](#); [joezimm@live.com](#); [justin@burgerfamilyfarm.com](#); [O'Dea, JUSTIN](#); [zoppenheimer@clarkcd.org](#); [Hector Hinojosa](#); [hollyhansenagcomm@gmail.com](#); [Jenna Kay](#); [Amy Koski](#); [Patricia Haggerty](#); [Paul Burgess](#); [Kelly & Patrick](#); [cc: Sunrise O'Mahoney](#)
Subject: RE: Ag Commission Public testimony
Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025 7:36:32 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

Jude,

Thank you for your additional comments.

We will add this to the public comment record for the meeting.



Bart Catching
Planner III
COMMUNITY PLANNING

564.397.4909

From: Jude Wait <wellsavelle@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 23, 2025 5:26 PM
To: Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov>
Cc: Bart Catching <Bart.Catching@clark.wa.gov>; Lauren Henricksen <Lauren.Henricksen@clark.wa.gov>; Sue Marshall <Sue.Marshall@clark.wa.gov>; Diane Dempster <dianedempster36@gmail.com>; Dillon Haggerty <dilishfarm@gmail.com>; Mo McKenna <momoflowerfarm@gmail.com>; Ann Foster <annfoster5093@gmail.com>; Monica Zazueta <zazuetamonica0813@gmail.com>; Gabriela Mendoza Ewing <info@pasitosgigantes.org>; Edward Hamilton Rosales <ed.rosales@wiafs.com>; Madeline Brooks <mbrooks@triangleassociates.com>; Danielle Jochums <djochums@triangleassociates.com>; Jose Alvarez <Jose.Alvarez@clark.wa.gov>; Oliver Orjiako <Oliver.Orjiako@clark.wa.gov>; Wil Fuentes <Wil.Fuentes@clark.wa.gov>; Matt Little <Matt.Little@clark.wa.gov>; joezimm@live.com; justin@burgerfamilyfarm.com; O'Dea, JUSTIN <justin.odea@wsu.edu>; zoppenheimer@clarkcd.org; Hector Hinojosa <vanwametro.47026@gmail.com>; hollyhansenagcomm@gmail.com; Jenna Kay <Jenna.Kay@clark.wa.gov>; Amy Koski <Amy.Koski@clark.wa.gov>; Patricia Haggerty <farmfoodjustice@gmail.com>; Paul Burgess <paul.burgess@fourthplainforward.org>; Kelly & Patrick <flattackfarm@gmail.com>; cc: Sunrise O'Mahoney <sunrise@thewatershedalliance.org>
Subject: Ag Commission Public testimony

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of Clark County. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Thanks Bart, etal

Here's a copy of my DRAFT oral testimony for the Ag Advisory Commission meeting.

Thanks!

Jude

On Tue, Sep 23, 2025 at 9:56 AM Jeffrey Delapena <Jeffrey.Delapena@clark.wa.gov> wrote:

Good day, Jude,

Thank you for submitting this public comment and related attachment.

These will be entered into the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record and added to comments received for the Sept. 24th Agricultural Advisory Commission meeting.



Jeff Delapena
Program Assistant
COMMUNITY PLANNING

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Public testimony by Jude Wait for Sept 24 Ag Advisory Commission Meeting.

In part, Responding to the August notes:

“a new proposed criteria for designating agricultural lands and will come back to this group for input before it goes to Council for adoption.” But without that being shared ahead of time...

Recommendations—if we are to actualize our caring about the future of agricultural production in Clark County. Can we help mitigate cumulative effects of NOT having had protective, promotional, supportive policies – farmland loss, farm and food related industry employment loss, high farm turnover, agricultural infrastructure loss, agroecosystem fragmentation, etc?

Farmland Designation.

1. Produce a Map of land under agricultural production NOW—to prioritize inclusion in “designation”
2. Consider that the “significance” of land includes recently and historical used for agriculture for inclusion.
3. Reverse the “policy” of UGAs as sacrifice areas—even as agricultural production persists, and certainly the “infrastructure” to support the agricultural sector is tied to UGAs and Cities.
4. Realize that “long-term significance” DEPENDS on getting the support and policies favorable to agriculture
5. Realize that “Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth” is largely NOT applicable to sprawling Clark County.
6. Consider this: IS the land CAPABLE of agricultural production?? For example, we have productive ridge-top farms, producers use “urban” agriculture farming techniques.
7. Map / Identify ASSETS for farming, agriculture, marketing, production, aggregation, distribution, ETC. For examples:
 - a. Include Clark College—farmland and agroecology program
 - b. WSU Vancouver—Indigenous gardens
 - c. Heritage Farm
 - d. What other land could be used for “community farm” and farm incubator approaches?
 - e. Promote and incentive collaboration, cooperation, and overcome the silos that prevent us from collective impact.
8. What are scientifically valid soil indicators to use?
 - a. Note that soil health can be cultivated.
 - b. Use the concept of soil resilience and farm resilience.

- c. Soil classifications and designations only BEGIN to inform us of agricultural production capacity.

References reviewed:

“6) "Agricultural land" means land primarily devoted to the commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural, dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain, hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax imposed by *RCW **84.33.100** through **84.33.140**, finfish in upland hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial significance for agricultural production.”

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.030>

“(a) Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products;”

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.170>

“Guidelines to classify agriculture, forest, and mineral lands and critical areas.

(1)...The department shall consult with the department of agriculture regarding guidelines for agricultural lands,...

(2) In carrying out its duties under this section, the department shall consult with interested parties, including but not limited to: (a) Representatives of cities; (b) representatives of counties; (c) representatives of developers; (d) representatives of builders; (e) representatives of owners of agricultural lands, forestlands, and mining lands; (f) representatives of local economic development officials; (g) representatives of environmental organizations; (h) representatives of special districts; (i) representatives of the governor's office and federal and state agencies; and (j) representatives of Indian tribes. In addition to the consultation required under this subsection, the department shall conduct public hearings in the various regions of the state. The department shall consider the public input obtained at such public hearings when adopting the guidelines.”

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.050>

“Natural resource lands and critical areas—Designations.

(a) Agricultural lands that are not already characterized by urban growth and that have long-term significance for the commercial production of food or other agricultural products;”

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=36.70A.170>