

From: [Jeffrey Delapena](#)
To: "Jude Wait"; [Bart Catching](#)
Cc: [Lauren Henricksen](#); [Jose Alvarez](#); [Oliver Oriako](#); [Jenna Kay](#)
Subject: RE: Econ DATA needs for Ag Study, GMP. Consultants, Commissions, and Council
Date: Tuesday, October 7, 2025 9:01:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)

Good day, Jude,

Thank you for your feedback related to the Sept. 30th Community Workshop regarding the Agricultural Lands Study.

These will be entered into the Comprehensive Plan Index of Record.



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Subject: Econ DATA needs for Ag Study, GMP. Consultants, Commissions, and Council

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Hi Everyone,

Thanks for the Open House and map posters!

Thanks, Oliver, for agreeing that you could make a Current Use map that exposes the CU inside the UGA.

Here's more data that should be easily updated. This from 2014 when we were struggling to show that farming in Clark County mattered (and we're still...)

By my (not an economist) analysis at the time (mostly 2012 data) :

In summary, data show 8,851 food and farming jobs in Clark County. This figure is more than 7% of the jobs in Clark County in 2012, at a time when there was 10.4% unemployment.^{iv} This is almost as many jobs as the top 8 single largest private employers in Clark County combined.^v

Current data updates may not make us happy, but would inspire us to the urgency of saving what we have left and building for expanding our capacity (not losing more farms and not developing more farmable land. Farming and Food sectors are still important to the current and long term SIGNIFICANCE and Capacity.

PS I don't agree with blocking out the UGA -- that seemed to also be a shock to many on the Ag Advisory Commission. I get the zoning criteria, but how do we account for so much farming on RURAL and in UGA and borderlands. What are the cumulative impacts of sprawling cities?

respectfully submitted,
Jude Wait

Economic Significance of Food and Farming in Clark County:

Snapshot of select data shared in December 2014

➔ *Jobs, Sales, Income, Growing Demand, and Food Security*

- **Food and Farm Product Sales of More Than \$475 Million**

The Washington State Department of Agriculture reports that Clark County's food processing industry generated **1,029 jobs** to attain gross sales of \$364 million in 2012—with milk, fryers, and berries the top three products.ⁱ

The total market value of crops and livestock sold by Clark County farms \$50.9 million—with 37% or \$18.9 million from crop sales and \$32 million from livestock sales (63%), according to the 2012 Census of Agriculture (COA).ⁱⁱ In addition, 384 of the farms reported additional gross income from farm-related sources, totaling nearly \$6 million—including \$249,000 from agri-tourism and recreational services, and \$1.6 million for forest products (excluding Christmas trees).

Farm expenses totaled \$54.7 million, including \$5.7 million in property taxes, nearly \$1 million for utilities, \$1.3 for repairs, supplies and maintenance, \$2.7 million on fuel, and \$15 million for feed, among other farm production expense categories reported for the 2012 COA.

- **More Than 8,850 Food and Farming Jobs**

There are a total of **3,072 farm operators** in Clark County. Hired farm labor is another category in the COA, which reports **2,211 workers**, including 454 migrant workers, for a \$9 million payroll. Contract labor on 178 farms cost farmers nearly \$1 million. There are also **2,476** unpaid workers who are “agricultural workers not on the payroll who performed activities or work on a farm or ranch.”ⁱⁱⁱ

In summary, data show **8,851 food and farming jobs in Clark County**. This figure is more than 7% of the jobs in Clark County in 2012, at a time when there was 10.4% unemployment.^{iv} This is almost as many jobs as the top 8 single largest private employers in Clark County combined.^v

References

Gilroy, A. (2008). Exploring the Clark County Food System, a food system assessment sponsored by Steps to a Healthier Clark County, Community Choices, and Clark County Public Health, for the Clark County Food System Council.

ⁱ http://agr.wa.gov/AgInWa/Crop_Maps.aspx

ⁱⁱ http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/Washington/

ⁱⁱⁱ COA 2012. Appendix B. General Explanation and Census of Agriculture Report Form

^{iv} Source: Washington State Employment Security Department via
<http://gis.clark.wa.gov/gishome/Census/2000/?pid=quickfacts>

^v Source: Vancouver Business Journal's 2013 Book of Lists via
<http://gis.clark.wa.gov/gishome/Census/2000/?pid=quickfacts>

^{vi} In our research process, we identified 102 farms using one or more direct-to-consumer market channels such as farmers' markets, u-pick, farm stands, on-line ordering, on-farm events, and Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)—only 29 of which are CSA farms. It appears as though the COA captured more CSA farms (39).

^{vii} <http://www.columbian.com/news/2013/mar/31/food-bank-20-more-of-everything/>

^{viii} <http://communitygrown.org/map-of-clark-county-gardens/>