

## **Organizations that work for small farmers:**

### **Within Washington State:**

#### **Cascade Harvest Coalition (CHC) [www.cascadeharvest.org](http://www.cascadeharvest.org)**

CHC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to build a sustainable regional food system by connecting producers more directly with consumers. CHC operates the Puget Sound Fresh ([www.pugetsoundfresh.org](http://www.pugetsoundfresh.org)), Washington FarmLink and Farm-to-Table programs. They provide consumer and farmer education, help create new market opportunities for farmers and food buyers, conduct market research and collaborate with organizations and local governments throughout the state to support local food and farming.

#### **Washington Sustainable Food and Farming Network (The Network) [www.wsffn.org](http://www.wsffn.org)**

The Network is a grassroots, statewide advocacy organization that works to advance sustainable agriculture and strengthen family farms. Through education, grassroots organizing, policy advocacy and lobbying, The Network has become a leading voice for sustainable agriculture and a key catalyst for change in food and farming policies and practices in Washington State. The Network has provided leadership on a number of important policy and programmatic issues, including establishing WSU's Biologically Intensive Agriculture and Organic Farming Program (BioAg, the first in the US), WSDA Future of Farming process, and Local Farms-Healthy Kids legislation.

#### **Tilth Producers of Washington <http://www.tilthproducers.org/default.htm>**

Tilth Producers is part of the Washington Tilth Association. It coordinates Farm Walks during the summer, sponsors an annual conference, produces a quarterly newsletter and a well used statewide directory of producers.

#### **Puget Sound Meat Producers Cooperative (PSMPC) [www.psmpc.com](http://www.psmpc.com)**

PSMPC is a non-profit cooperative of local ranchers, farmers, butchers, restaurant owners and others joined in the operation of a mobile, USDA-inspected meat processing unit initially servicing King, Kitsap, Lewis, Mason, Pierce and Thurston counties. The USDA-inspected mobile meat processing unit travels to local farms and ranches to process the animals, then transports the animal carcasses to a cooperative partner USDA-inspected cut and wrap facility for further processing. PSMPC is currently working to develop poultry processing capabilities for the region they serve.

#### **King County Agriculture Program (KCAP)**

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wlr/agriculture-program.aspx>

The primary goals of the KCAP are to: preserve the county's farmland, support farmers efforts to be good environmental stewards, increase consumer demand for locally grown food and ensure the continued economic viability of small farms. KCAP provides direct assistance to farmers raising livestock, maintaining agricultural ditches, working with DDES on permitting and regulatory issues, monitor preserved farmland and to farmers market managers. Staff provide guidance and support on a wide variety of issues ranging from marketing, business development, health department and other regulatory issues, and helping new farmers get connected to resources.

#### **Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program (SFDM) <http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/>**

The primary goals of the SFDM program are to: increase the economic viability of small farms; build community vitality; and improve the environmental quality of the region. SFDM provides resources and tools to assist new and existing farmers make sound business decisions; including the *Small Farm and Direct Marketing Handbook* ("Green" Book), *Washington State Farmers Market Manual* and *Farm to Cafeteria Connections*. Program staff provide guidance and support on a wide variety of issues ranging from food safety regulations to direct marketing guidance. They support a number of

ongoing efforts, including: the Farmers Market Taskforce, Immigrant Farming Task Force, Meat Processing Task Force, Farm to School programs, and much more.

### **Washington State University Small Farms Program (SFP) and Small Farms Team (SFT)**

<http://smallfarms.wsu.edu/>

The WSU SFP is a program of the Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources (CSANR) in WSU Extension and the College of Agricultural, Human, and Natural Resource Sciences (CAHNRS). The program focuses on education resources for farmers, outreach to communities, and team-based research with farmers.

The WSU SFT provides research-based information and educational programs for farmers, consumers, decision-makers, and others involved in local food systems. The team is a statewide affiliation of professionals from WSU, state agencies and non-governmental organizations with the primary goals of: building public support for agriculture; preserving Washington farmland for food and fiber production; helping farmers adopt practices that are sustainable- economically, socially and environmentally; and unifying farmers and consumer in developing local markets and community food access. Many local groups have members on the SFT.

The SFT website provides access to a wide variety of information and tools on; immigrant farmer programs, animals, soil and livestock, pest management, crops, marketing, farm resources, educational opportunities and much more. Members of the SFT are currently working on a wide variety of grant funded projects to support farmers markets, immigrant farmers and a variety of crop production, pest management, specialty crop and climate-related research.

### **Washington State Small Farm Advisory Board (WSFAB)**

The Washington State Small Farm Advisory Board (WSFAB) consists of farmers, agricultural organizations, industry, university personnel and other stakeholder parties that meet to discuss issues relevant to small-scale family farming, provide guidance to the WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing program and WSU Small Farm Team, and recommend policy that ensures a vibrant food and farming industry in Washington.

### **King Conservation District (KCD)**

[www.kingcd.org](http://www.kingcd.org)

The King Conservation District provides a variety of programs and services to landowners and residents of King County. Funding for District programs and services comes from a local special assessment and state grants. Grants have been used to fund a wide variety of environmental stewardship and agriculture support programs, partner organizations (WSU King County Extension, King County Agriculture Program staff, Cascade Harvest Coalition/Puget Sound Fresh), and related efforts.

### **Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC) [www.agbizcenter.org/](http://www.agbizcenter.org/)**

NABC is a non-profit organization providing economic development services (business and marketing services, product development) to new and existing businesses in Northwest Washington (Island, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish and Whatcom counties). NABC recently launched the [Puget Sound Food Network](#) in collaboration with a number of local organizations to create a virtual marketplace connecting Puget Sound's farmers with other businesses looking to source local food ([www.psfm.org](http://www.psfm.org)).

### **Washington State University Extension (Extension)**

<http://ext.wsu.edu/>

Extension educators are the critical link between science and research generated at WSU and the hands-on work of growing food, fuel, and fiber. Extension educators help ensure that new information is locally relevant and applicable. They test and translate research results into best practices that benefit the bottom line by increasing profits and cutting costs. King County budget cuts for 2010 resulted in loss of WSU King County Extension staff and programming.

## Online Resources to Get Connected:

### Beginning farmers:

<http://www.wshfc.org/farmranch/index.htm>.  
<http://www.cfra.org/node/986>  
<http://www.farm-credit.com/Default.aspx?pageid=355>.  
[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp\\_topics.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/bfrdp/bfrdp_topics.html).

**Getting Connected (WSDA Handbook):** [http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/DOCS/056-SmallFarmAndDirectMarketingHandbook-Final\\_Part2.pdf](http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/DOCS/056-SmallFarmAndDirectMarketingHandbook-Final_Part2.pdf).

### National Perspectives and Advocacy Information:

**Farmland Preservation:** <http://ofp.scc.wa.gov/index.php/category/news-and-views>.

#### American Farmland Trust:

[http://www.farmland.org/about/stories/default.asp?gclid=CJL7xP3\\_oaACFQaiagodsI3KYQ](http://www.farmland.org/about/stories/default.asp?gclid=CJL7xP3_oaACFQaiagodsI3KYQ).

**Community Food Security Coalition:** [www.foodsecurity.org](http://www.foodsecurity.org)

**National Sustainable Ag Coalition:** <http://sustainableagriculture.net/>

### Food safety:

<http://www.cspinet.org/foodsafety/foodbills.html>.  
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-510>.  
<http://www.cspinet.org/foodsafety/legislation.html>.  
<http://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceComplianceRegulatoryInformation/GuidanceDocuments/ProduceandPlanProducts/ucm064458.htm>.

### Grants & Loans:

**(Financing your Farm – Handbook):** <http://agr.wa.gov/Marketing/SmallFarm/DOCS/2-FinancingYourFarm.pdf>.  
[http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/b&i\\_gar.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/b&i_gar.htm).

### Websites with lots of good information:

<http://www.spinfarming.com/spinfarmers/suppliers.php?cat=main>.  
<http://civileats.com/category/life-on-the-farm/>.  
<http://www.coolfoodscampaign.org/>.  
<http://www.leopold.iastate.edu/resources/fruitveg/fruitveg.php>.  
[http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qll5lhNVJsE/b.2723709/k.82C7/Find\\_Good\\_Food.htm](http://www.farmaid.org/site/c.qll5lhNVJsE/b.2723709/k.82C7/Find_Good_Food.htm).  
<http://www.nicfa.com/>.  
[http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/nal\\_display/index.php?info\\_center=2&tax\\_level=1](http://afsic.nal.usda.gov/nal_display/index.php?info_center=2&tax_level=1). (I think this is a good one!?)  
[http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/ag\\_systems/in\\_focus/smallfarms\\_if\\_family\\_farm\\_forum.html](http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/ag_systems/in_focus/smallfarms_if_family_farm_forum.html).  
<http://www.responsibletechnology.org/GMFree/Home/index.cfm>.  
<http://rodaleinstitute.org/>.  
<http://www.sustainablelivingcenter.com/>.

**Bio Char:** <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/0907062.pdf>.

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