

Whatcom Conservation District



State Legislative District #39, 40, 42
Congressional District #2

Other Accomplishments

- Individuals provided technical assistance: 1,480
- Small Farm Workshop participants: 260
- Farm Conservation Plans completed: 71
- Dairy Nutrient Management Plans completed/updated: 26
- State Livestock Cost-share of \$149,900 was provided with \$86,999 producer match.
- Non-commercial farm cost-share of \$1,501 was provided with \$500 landowner match.
- Total Best Management Practices (BMPs) cost-shared: 8
- CREP plans completed: 26
- CREP stream feet planted: 59,624
- CREP stream feet fenced: 16,297
- CREP native plants installed: 48,841
- CREP projects maintained: 112
- CREP acres maintained: 642
- Other riparian restoration projects implemented: 8
- Stream feet planted: 22,290
- Native plants installed: 19,228
- Bank stabilization projects (large woody debris) installed: 15
- Stream bank re-sloping: 4,800 feet
- Fish passage barrier removed: 3
- Farm bridge installed over stream: 1

2010 Feature Accomplishments

Farm Planning Program -

Resource Challenge Whatcom County is ranked 7th overall in agriculture products sold in the state with rankings of 2nd in dairy products and 1st in berry production. Whatcom has 126 dairy farms with an estimated 49,000 cows, not counting heifer replacement facilities, and 11,379 acres in berries. In addition to dairies and berries, Whatcom County has other valuable agriculture commodities as well as a large rural community which has over 1,000 livestock operations. This extensive agricultural community provides both benefits and challenges to water quality and can have an impact on local commercial and recreational shellfish harvest areas and ground water.

Project Summary and Results – Whatcom Conservation District (WCD) has two farm planning teams. One team works with commercial livestock operations (primarily dairy farms). The other works with crop and non-profit livestock operations.

In fiscal year 2010, **\$437,697 State funds** (\$119,983 Livestock Technical Assistance, \$149,900 Livestock Cost-share, and \$51,997 Technical Service Provider, \$115,817 Small Farm Technical Assistance) were matched by **\$645,727 Federal funds** (\$51,997 Technical Service Provider and \$593,730 EQIP cost-share), **\$131,579 County Funds** and **\$5,000 of Puget Sound Partnership funds**. Eleven producers have implemented 27 practices under EQIP, which include separators, pipelines, pumps, manure pits & tanks.

Coldstream Dairy received State and EQIP cost-share and technical assistance on a manure/bedding separation system. Jeff Rainey stated that the system helped reduce their solids applications and their bedding costs. He said that this type of assistance is necessary to keep dairy producers in business. They've had a very positive experience with their unit and working with Chris Clark, WCD EIT.

Key Project Partners – USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Washington State Conservation Commission, Whatcom County and Puget Sound Partnership.



Coldstream Dairy Separation System



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Terry Lenssen, Vice-Chair
Larry Davis, Secretary/Treasurer
Ed Stone, Member
Richard Yoder, Member

Cost-share assistance on separation systems helps recycle bedding and reduce amount of solids in the waste system.

More Work To Do

Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)

- 26 CREP participants for the upcoming year with 37 new projects pending

EPA Grants

- Received EPA grant (\$772,570) to assist landowners and residents of Birch Bay to improve water quality for recreational swimming and shellfish harvest.
- Received EPA grant (\$710,887) to develop and scientifically test a unique Application Risk Management (ARM) system to reduce the impacts of manure spreading.

Livestock

- Ongoing work with 126 commercial dairy operations.