

FARM FUNDING PROGRAMS				
Organization	Program Name	Program Details	Program Eligibility	Notes
	Small Farm Cost Share	Funds 75% of project up to \$3,000 for Best Management Practices on farms with a completed site assessment and a Farm Plan.	Livestock owners in Whatcom County in coastal watersheds (Nooksack River, Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay). Projects with a positive impact on water quality.	
Whatcom Conservation District 6975 Hannegan Road, Lynden, WA 98246 Farm Planning: Corina Cheever ccheever@whatcomcd.org 360-526-2371	Washington State Conservation Commission Shellfish Program Cost Share	Funds 75% of project up to \$100,000 for Best Management Practices on farms with a completed site assessment and a Farm Plan.	Livestock owners in Whatcom County in coastal watersheds (Nooksack River, Drayton Harbor, and Birch Bay). Projects with a positive impact on water quality. Deadline: Rolling, first of the month, projects must be completed by June 30, 2025.	Limited funding available through Natural Resource Investment (NRI), which has similar, program funding but is not geographically constrained to coastal watersheds.
Riparian Planning: Frank Corey fcorey@whatcomcd.org	Farm Equipment Rental	WCD has a manure spreader, seed- drill and small-scale poultry processing equipment available for rent.	Individuals residing in Whatcom County.	
360-526-2381 x 131 Aneka Sweeney asweeney@whatcomcd.org 360-526-2381 x 103	Fish Passage Barrier Removal	Funding to replace stream crossings (culverts) that are barriers to fish passage.	Any land with a fish-bearing stream. Free assessment.	
	Salmon Recovery Funding	Funding to establish riparian forest buffers alongside any fish-bearing stream in Whatcom County. Flexible project design. 100% landowner cost-share with potential for financial incentives for high priority land.	Any land with a fish-bearing stream. Deadline: Rolling. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2025.	



Organization	Program Name	Program Details	Program Eligibility & Deadline	Notes
Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 914 Citadel Dr suite C, Everson, WA 98247 Joy Hawley joy.hawley@wa.usda.gov 360-318-8121 x 6100 Alex Hall alexander.hall@usda.gov 360-592-6095 Daizy Dehncke Daizy.Dehnke@usda.gov	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns.	Ag producers, owners of non- industrial private forestland and Tribes. Projects focus on manure management, irrigation upgrades, forest management, erosion control, pasture enhancement, and high tunnels. Deadline: October 20, 2023	
	Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)	Pays for operational expenses related to the value-added product, such as processing, marketing, and distribution costs.	VAPG is for Agricultural Producers, groups, cooperatives, and harvesters. Farmers that are creating or planning to create a value-added product. Deadline: May 11, 2023, renews for 2024	Overview presentation
USDA Rural Development Brandon Hoffman 360-488-4841	Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)	Helps pay for the installation or construction of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements.	REAP is for rural small business and Agriculture Producers. Farmers and Rural Small Businesses.	See fact sheet
brandon.hoffman@wa.usda.gov	Revolving Loan Fund Programs	Administers the Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) and Rural Micro entrepreneur Assistance Program (RMAP). These programs provide loans to Intermediary Organizations that relend those funds to eligible borrowers. Loan Terms/Amounts: Security requirements, interest rates, and loan terms are negotiated between Intermediaries and borrowers.	Eligible borrowers: Businesses, individuals, public or private organizations, non-profits, or other legal entities. IRP loans can finance no more than 75% of the total project cost. Loans cannot exceed \$400,000. RMAP loans can finance no more than 75% of the total project cost. Loans cannot exceed \$50,000.	WA State Intermediary List -Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians -Business Impact NW -Chehalis Tribal Loan Fund -Craft 3 -Enterprise for Equity -Evergreen Business Capital -North Central WA Business Loan Fund -Tri County Economic Development District



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USDA Farm Services Agency 914 Citadel Dr suite C, Everson, WA 98247 360-318-8121 Loans:	Organic Certification Cost Chare Program (OCCSP)	Provides organic producers and handlers with financial assistance to reduce the cost of organic certification. The program reimburses producers and handlers for a portion of their paid certification costs. Once certified, organic producers and handlers are eligible to receive reimbursement for 75 percent of certification costs for program year 2023, up to a maximum of \$750 per certification scope—crops, livestock, wild crops, handling, and State Organic Program fees.		Visit a local USDA Farm Service Agency office to get started on your enrollment paperwork. At this visit they can also help find programs that fit for you.
Darcy K. Maldonado 360-592-6115 darcy.maldonado@usda.gov Programs: Kara Christensen kara.christensen@usda.gov	Farm Loans	Provide loans to purchase farmland or farm improvements, including closing costs, and soil and water conservation practices.	Farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders.	
	<u>Disaster Assistance</u> <u>Programs</u>	These programs can vary depending on the year. Current Programs include: Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm Raised Fish Program (ELAP), Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP), Tree Assistance Program (TAP).	Each program will have different timelines and eligibility depending on the disaster category that has been reached.	
	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Pays for cost of plantings and maintenance for five years. Site preparation includes invasive plant removal and fencing to exclude livestock. Receive annual rental payments.	Landowners interested in planting trees and shrubs along rivers, creeks, ditches, or wetlands. Land must be adjacent to a CREP eligible stream. Generally, projects must be at least 1-acre in size.	



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WA Dept. of Social and Human Services (DSHS) EBT Retail & Security Program Manager / Community Services Division Amber Foister Cell 360-790-1055 amber.foister1@dshs.wa.gov	EBT Processing Equipment	Covers the costs of an EBT terminal (minus the cost of receipt tape). V400m wireless devices that use cellular tower signals or a VX520 wired landline device that requires power and phone line. Once you choose which device will work best for your market, we will forward your information to our vendor Fidelity Information Services (FIS). FIS will send you a contract and when you return it, they will ship the equipment to you.		
Whatcom Land Trust Alex Jeffers (360) 746-6804 Alex @ Whatcomlandtrust.org	Farming for Food & Wildlife	Whatcom Land Trust works with farmers to protect farmland with wildlife or water quality values through use of conservation easements. Bridge Loan for farm purchase. The amount varies and is repaid when easement closes. All or some of the loan may be forgivable.	Farmland must be in Whatcom County and have high conservation value. Deadline: Ongoing	
Whatcom County – Public Works 360-778-6230 PICprogram@co.whatcom.wa.us	Small Farm Rebate	\$300 towards fencing, gates, barn gutters and/or outlet, or heavy use area footing.	Confirm eligibility with a Whatcom Conservation District Farm Planner. Livestock owners in Whatcom County in coastal watersheds (Nooksack River, Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay).	Requires WCD site visit or workshop attendance see Farm Speaker Series schedule online. Landowner submits the rebate application form to the county.



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Whatcom County - Dept. of Health Hayli Hruza 360-306-7325 hhruza@co.whatcom.wa.us	Septic Maintenance Rebate Program	Property owners that have a septic system serving their property. Standard Septic Rebates will provide: \$150 for evaluation or \$150 for equipment install or \$250 for pumping activities	To qualify for the Standard Septic rebate, you must have a private residence with a septic system located in Whatcom County. Deadline: Ongoing	All rebate information can be found online. Additional funding for Septic Assistance Rebate for eligible applicants: must receive the Whatcom County Assessor's Property Tax Exemption for Senior Citizens and People with Disabilities.
AgWest Farm Credit AgVision Jesika Harper Jesika.harper@agwestfc.com	New Producer Grant	\$15,000 grant for farmers who haven't managed their own operation for more than two years or who plan to begin farming in the next two years.	Deadline: Close 8/31/2023 will reopen in early 2024	
Spark Northwest Mia Devine 206-755-1233 mia@sparknorthwest.org	USDA Rural Energy for America Program	REAP grants can fund up to 50% of the total project cost for on-farm renewable energy and efficiency.	Agricultural producers and rural small businesses. Deadline: Quarterly	Spark Northwest provides no- cost technical assistance and grant-writing support for the USDA REAP grants.
Whatcom County - Conservation Easement Program Lauren Templeton 360-778-5956 LTemplet@co.whatcom.wa.us	Conservation Easement Program (CEP)	The Conservation Easement Program (previously named the Purchase of Development Rights program) is a voluntary program with the primary focus on farmland preservation. The program compensates property owners for the value of their unused development rights and protects the land through the placement of permanent conservation easements.	To be eligible, your property must have at least one remaining development right and be located within an Agriculture, Rural, Rural Residential or Rural Forestry zoning designation. Properties located within Urban Growth Areas are generally ineligible. The property must be at least 1 acre. Criteria for scoring your property can be found on the CEP guidelines on our website (www.whatcomcounty.us/cep).	Conservation easements are perpetual contract agreements where a landowner agrees to protect the values present within the property, such as working farmlands, working forestlands, and important ecosystems.



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	Small and Direct Marketing Farm Assistance	Technical Assistance	All farmers are eligible.	Resources for Direct-Marketing Farmers and Ranchers and for Meat processors
WSDA Regional Markets Laura Raymond 206-379-3480 Iraymond@agr.wa.gov Micha Ide 360-867-8686	Meat and Poultry Assistance Program <u>USDA Grant for Meat</u> <u>Processors</u>	The Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Program (MPPEP) provides grants to help eligible processors expand their processing capacity, which create new, better and more processing options for meat and poultry producers.	Processor projects eligible for this program include construction of a new facility or the purchase and upgrade of an inoperable facility, including real estate; modernization, including construction, at an existing facility; equipment; workforce recruitment, training, and apprenticeships; staffing or operational costs tied to the proposed project, and more.	USDA's Meat and Poultry Processing Technical Assistance Program (MPPTA) or the Niche Meat Processor Assistance Network's (NMPAN) one-on-one Office Hours with grant experts Grant Opportunities
Micha.ide@agr.wa.gov Galen Van Horn Local Food Infrastructure and Supply Chains Specialist 564-200-4054 galen.vanhorn@agr.wa.gov Annette Slonim Farm to School Lead 206-714-2757 aslonim@agr.wa.gov	Local Food Systems Infrastructure Grant Program	This will allow WSDA to continue to offer Local Food System Infrastructure grants into the future. On-going funding makes it possible for farms and local food businesses to plan to apply for the grant when it makes the most sense for your own business growth.	While specific grant amounts, eligibility requirements, and guidelines may change in future grant rounds, reviewing this information is a good way for future applicants to become familiar with the grant and to prepare to apply. Deadline: Opens this fall October 2023, annual	Sign up to be notified of future grant opportunities and share your thoughts on investing in local food systems: English: bit.ly/WSDASurvey Español: bit.ly/WSDAEncuesta The 2023 Washington state legislature allocated new, ongoing state funding of \$8 million dollars per biennium!
	Farm to School Purchasing Grant	Facilitate connections between local farms and school districts. Grants provide school districts additional funds for local purchasing.	Not a program for farmers directly but can be used to buy from local farms. Grant period is 2023 - 2025 Deadline: Fall 2023	
WSDA Derek Thedell 360-890-0625 compost@agr.wa.gov	Compost Reimbursement Program	Program will pay up to 50% of costs to obtain, transport and spread compost up to \$10,000 per farm per year. Requires soil samples for several years (10 years) and soil sample collection prior to a WSDA specified lab.	Any Washington state commercial farming operation. Must be purchased from a facility with a solid waste handling permit. Farmers must include invoices, and receipts and a brief description. Must be submitted by June 1 of the FY of purchase. Deadline: Rolling, first come first served.	Sign up to receive a notification when it opens. Farms must sign a grant agreement contract with WSDA to participate in the program. Must allow WSDA to take samples if necessary. All program records and data are subject to public disclosure.



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Community Food Co-op Annabelle Rosborough 360-734-8158 FarmFund@communityfood.coop	Farm Fund Grant	The Farm Fund Grant program distributes a limited number of grants of up to approximately \$2,000 for projects that address immediate and critical farm needs, flood recovery, and market expansion.	Priority consideration is given to farmers who face systemic barriers. Multi-farm collaborations and projects that strengthen local, sustainable agriculture at large in Whatcom and Skagit counties.	
	Farm Fund Secured Loans	The Co-op Farm Fund secured low- interest loans at 3% for sustainable farm improvement projects in partnership with the Industrial Credit Union. Loans of \$500 - \$12,000, secured at 3% interest through ICU for machinery, equipment, greenhouses, supplies, on- farm construction or other resources for increasing productivity.	Whatcom or Skagit county farmers (must supply Whatcom county) working to stabilize or expand their farm, or improve farm infrastructure.	
	Next Step Grants	The Next Step Grant program is designed to support local farmers who want to expand their business to supply wholesale markets and includes funds for flood recovery. Next Step accepts proposals for grants of \$1,250 to \$5,000.	Farmers in Whatcom or Skagit counties looking to expand and serve the wholesale market in Whatcom County with organic and sustainably produced products.	
Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association Rachel Vasak 360-739-1440 rvasak@n-sea.org Eli Dewitt 360-393-5520 edewitt@n-sea.org	Riparian restoration & instream habitat restoration support	Current funding allows various buffer sizes, barrier removal, instream habitat improvements.	Anyone along salmon bearing streams. Deadline: Rolling	



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Tilth Alliance Nathan Stacey Farm Program Director (206) 633-0451 ext.116 natestacey@tilthalliance.org Rae Russell RaeRussell@tilthalliance.org	WA State Organic & Sustainable Farming Fund	Grant requests can be made up to \$10,000. Proposals should have objectives that are realistically achievable in a 9-month period (April-December). The total granted amount must be spent by the end of the awarding year. The amount granted (whether in part or in full) will depend on applicant pool needs. Multi-year projects or those exceeding the maximum allowed request will not be funded. We recognize the importance of multi-year projects but cannot guarantee funding for projects beyond a single year.	This grant program is open to all Washington State farmers who: Currently employ or are adopting practices that follow regenerative, sustainable, and/or organic principles (this includes conventional farms that are transitioning into organic, sustainable, or regenerative production). Have been in business for at least two years. Are seeking to improve and/or expand their operation, improve environmental impacts, or become a more sustainable business. Deadline: Generally late fall, early winter.	Note that an individual farm business is not eligible to receive more than \$20,000 over a five-year period. Previous grantees are eligible to apply but priority will be given to new applicants.
Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) grants@foodanimalconcerns.org	Fund-A-Farmer Grants	\$2,500 for individual farmers. Up to \$5,000 for joint applications. Certification Grant, Capacity Grant & Pasture Grant categories.	Competitive grants to working, independent family farmers located in the continental U.S. who raise beef cattle, broiler chickens, dairy cows, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys. Deadline: Application period Nov 1 – Jan 15, 2024	Many past grant projects have focused on fencing, watering systems, or mobile animal shelters. Farmers have also completed a variety of unique projects involving constructing cattle scratching stations, planting trees to improve access to shade, and purchasing equipment for fly control.
Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), USDA	Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants in Sustainable Agriculture	Up to \$20,000 over three years for individual farms. Producers are main applicants. With technical advisors, producers integrate research and education to conduct on-site/on-farm experiments to improve production, marketing, and the environment.	Primary occupation is for-profit farming or ranching or you are a part-time producer with at least \$1,000 documented annual income from farming or ranching activities.	



INCUBATOR PROGRAMS					
Organization	Program Name	Program Details	Program Eligibility	Notes	
Cloud Mountain Farm Elizabeth Hayes Director elizabethh@cloudmountainfarmcen ter.org Blanca Castillo Ag Education Manager blancac@cloudmountainfarmcenter .org	Elizabeth Hayes Director ethh@cloudmountainfarmcen ter.org Blanca Castillo Ag Education Manager c@cloudmountainfarmcenter	The 20-acre farm site is located in Everson, WA, 2 miles south of the Cloud Mountain Farm Center's main farm and facilities. The program offers, on a fee basis, river bottom soil (Puyallup Fine Sandy Loam), equipment, access to irrigation, barn space, propagation space, limited cooler and dry storage space, networking opportunities, and access to an aggregation/distribution location serving market outlets.	It is required to have a business license, be able to work well with land mates and have experience in agriculture. Beginning farmers and individuals with are interested in starting or expanding a farm business.	Land is available in 1/4 acre to 3 acre parcels; applicants are encouraged to start with what they know they can manage, and pursue expansion from there.	
Viva Farms vivafarms.org info@vivafarms.org (360) 969-7191	Farm Business Incubator	The incubator farm model provides aspiring farmers the necessary resources and support to build successful farm businesses. Our Farm Business Incubator is a bilingual program based on offering support to both beginning farmers and experienced farm workers in five essential areas: access to land, infrastructure and equipment; markets, capital and training.	Required to participate in practicum in Sustainable Agriculture through Viva prior to entering the program.	Land is available from 0.25-10+ acres. Start out with small acreage and grow your business over time.	



CLASSES					
Organization	Program Name	Program Details	Program Eligibility	Notes	
Northwest Agriculture Business Center Emily Manke 360-223-2008 emily@agbizcenter.org	Resilerator Northwest: Business Skills Intensive for Mid-scale Farms	Presented by the Northwest Agricultural Business Center in partnership with CAFarmLink and Watershed Productions. Topics Covered: Business structures, labor, accounting and taxation, credit and cash flow, insurance, and environmental and marketing regulations. Technical assistance to help producers prepare for and/or access grant and loan programs.	Farmers who are interested in business start-up or expansion, value added food production, or farmers markets. Registration: Priority application deadline September 1st, 2023. Applications will be accepted until the cohort reaches 20 farmers. Deadline: Registration closes September 15th. Apply here.	Location: Zoom Max. attendees: 20 farms. Each farm can have all the principal managers attend. Fee: \$200 (Fully refundable upon completion of the course) Questions? Email contact to learn more. Register online.	
WSU Extension Kate Smith 360-395-2363 kate.smith@wsu.edu	Cultivating Success™ Whole Farm Planning Course	Whole Farm Planning Offered Statewide, Online, and with Spanish Interpretation This course will cover a broad range of topics and decision-making tools for you to create a successful small farm enterprise! Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm. Planificación de toda la granja Ofrecido a nivel estatal, en línea y con interpretación en español. ¡Cubriremos una amplia gama de las opciones de producción y mercadeo paras las pequeñas granjas de hoy! Ya sea que este explorando nuevas oportunidades disponibles o ya tenga una operación existente, aprenderá lo que se necesita para crear, sostener y hacer crecer su granja de pequeña escala.	Open to anyone interested in learning more about starting or expanding a sustainable farm. \$200 for an 11-week course September 25th through December 4th, 2023 Class meets weekly on Mondays from 6:00pm to 8:00pm Online course classroom through Zoom with in-person field trips \$200 por un curso de 11 semanas del 25 de septiembre al 4 de diciembre de 2023 La clase se reúne semanalmente los lunes de 6:00pm a 8:00pm Curso en línea a través de Zoom con visitas al campo	Scholarships are available for Military Veterans and anyone for whom the course fee is a barrier. This course will be offered with Spanish language interpretation and facilitation. Hay becas disponibles para veteranos militares y cualquier persona para quien la tarifa del curso sea una barrera. WSU Extension ofrecerá nuestro curso en línea de Planificación de toda la granja este otoño y nos gustaría invitarles a usted y a su comunidad. ¡Curso traducido al español! Este curso se ofrecerá con interpretación y facilitación en español.	



WHATCOM COUNTY PLANNING CONTACTS				
Organization	Program Name	Program Details	Program Eligibility	Notes
Whatcom County – Planning and Development Dakota Stranik 360-778-5911 dstranik@whatcomcounty.us	Conservation Program on Agricultural Lands (CPAL)	The CPAL program gives farmers and ranchers (including hobby farmers) an alternative to the standard regulations of the Critical Areas Ordinance (CAO) which excludes many activities, including agriculture, from Critical Areas and their buffers. The CPAL program can potentially allow for "ongoing agricultural" activities within certain critical areas and associated buffers through an approved Farm Plan. This Farm Plan will highlight which Best Management Practices (BMPs) the landowner chooses to implement in order to protect natural resources and water quality.	In order to be eligible for CPAL, the property use must qualify as "ongoing agriculture". Activities that bring an area into agricultural use are not part of an ongoing activity. An operation ceases to be ongoing when the area on which it was conducted has been converted to a nonagricultural use or has lain idle for more than five consecutive years unless that idle land is registered in a federal or state soils conservation program. Forest practices are not included in this definition. Once enrolled in CPAL, monitoring reports are required every two years to demonstrate that participants are following their farm plan.	CPAL accepts new Farm Plans year-round. As the farm changes, the Farm Plan can and should be updated in order to remain accurate. The landowner may choose to work with Whatcom Conservation District to develop the Farm Plan confidentially before submitting the final draft to Whatcom County for approval
Whatcom County - Food System Planning Committee Ali Jensen 360-303-7840 ajensen@co.whatcom.wa.us	Food System Plan	A 10-year plan for an equitable and sustainable food system.	Committee meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The meetings are hybrid in- person at 509 Girard Street in Bellingham and virtual via zoom.	Find the virtual meeting link in the agenda. Agendas prior to 2023 can be found in the Agenda Center.
Whatcom County - Agricultural Advisory Committee Dakota Stranik 360-778-5911 dstranik@whatcomcounty.us	Agricultural Strategic Plan	The Agriculture Strategic Plan was created to support the goals of farmland preservation and help direct Whatcom County Planning and Development Services, as well as other County Departments, in achieving the goals and supporting agricultural efforts throughout Whatcom County.	Committee meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month. The meetings are virtual via Zoom. Find the virtual meeting link in the agenda. Agendas can be found on the committee website or in the Agenda Center	.Currently accepting new committee member applications in the following areas: Ag Producer, Ag Processing, Ag Programs, & Ag Products Consumer. To apply.