

# King County's Partner Organizations

Without King County's partners, we would not be able to sustain the level of services to markets, farmers, or shoppers. Partner organization services include advocacy and legislative work, marketing, research, some training and professional development, consumer and farmer education, among other activities. Funding, organizational capacity, and other resources vary widely among these organizations. The biggest service gap is that there is currently no single organization whose mission is to support the county's farmers markets and prioritize their long-term sustainability and development.

There are many other organizations the County works with in many different ways. These provide primary support services to farmers markets, farmers that sell at them, or market shoppers.

## **Burst for Prosperity**

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

Burst for Prosperity seeks to reduce poverty in Washington State by researching and testing innovative models to help new refugees and immigrants achieve financial independence. Burst has been instrumental in supporting immigrant farmer initiatives in King County (Burundi, Somali Bantu and others) by partnering with organizations to find land and resources, provide technical assistance, marketing support, and business planning.

## **Cascade Harvest Coalition (CHC)**

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

CHC is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to build a sustainable regional food system by connecting producers more directly with consumers. CHC operates the Puget Sound Fresh, 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.

## **Farmers Market Coalition (FMC)**

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

FMC is a national nonprofit organization that serves the rapidly growing farmers market industry with information and representation at state and federal levels. It helps to build networks, link peers and connect markets with tools and resources for success.

## **Good Food Coalition**

The Good Food Coalition is a collaborative effort of a diversity of environmental, farming, school and public health interests who initially came together to help conceptualize, draft and build support for the Local Farms - Healthy Kids legislation (passed in March 2008) that created the Farm to School position within the Washington State Department of Agriculture, created a farmers market technology pilot project, farm to food bank pilot project, and changed state procurement policies to facilitate purchase of local food from local producers. The Coalition

continues to support full implementation of LFHK and other policies that will ensure a sustainable and just food system in Washington State—one that supports viable farms, protects our air, land, and water, and ensures affordable access to healthy food for all people. The Good Food Coalition meets regularly to: discuss current and coming issues affecting a sustainable and just food system in Washington; collaborate and share information about statewide public policy issues; and develop an annual legislative agenda that makes progress on our goal to achieve policies that support viable farms, protect our environment, and ensure access to healthy food for all people.

**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 members, Cascade Harvest Coalition/Puget Sound Fresh), and related efforts. Funds from the KCD were used to help purchase the University Heights Community Center – home of the University District Farmers Market.

**King-Pierce Farm Bureau**

<http://king-piercecountyfarmbureau.farming.officelive.com/default.aspx>

The King-Pierce Farm Bureau is a nonprofit, membership organization that works to protect the interests of farm and ranch families by improving the economic well-being of agriculture and the quality of life for farm families. Farm Bureau provides farm policy insurance through their Country Companies affiliate and lobbies at the state and federal levels for policies supportive of family farms.

**Neighborhood Farmers Market Alliance (NFMA)**

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

NFMA is a nonprofit, community-based organization developed in response to the growing popularity and public support of the neighborhood Farmers Markets in Seattle. The NFMA's mission is to support Washington's small farms and farming families by providing effective direct sales sites for our region's small farmers, and by educating consumers about local farm products and the benefits of buying direct from local farmers. NFMA's seven markets are local, "producer-only" markets (no crafts, flea markets, or wholesalers) and include: Broadway, Columbia City, Lake City, Magnolia, Phinney, University District, and West Seattle. NFMA supports and participates in a variety of research projects targeted at improving the capacity of the state's farmers markets, farmer access to markets, and increasing shoppers at farmers markets.

**Northwest Agriculture Business Center (NABC)**

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

NABC is a nonprofit 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.

**Public Health - Seattle & King County**

[www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health.aspx](http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthservices/health.aspx)

Public Health provides important food safety permitting and inspection services to the County's farmers markets. Public Health, Ag Program staff members, and market managers partner to help expand access to farmers markets by more county residents.

**Sno-Valley Tilth (SVT)**

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

SVT supports organic and sustainable food production practices throughout the Snoqualmie and Snohomish watersheds. They work collaboratively to support and promote biologically sound and socially equitable agriculture and connect producers with consumers. SVT operates the Carnation Farmers Market.

**Puget Sound Meat Producers Cooperative (PSMPC)**

[www.psmpc.com](http://www.psmpc.com)

PSMPC is a nonprofit 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.

**PCC Farmland Trust**

[www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/farmtrust](http://www.pccnaturalmarkets.com/farmtrust)

The PCC Farmland Trust was founded in 1999 by PCC Natural Markets as a separate, nonprofit organization with the goals of preserving and stewarding threatened farmland in the Northwest and ensuring that of local farmers productively farm it using sustainable, organic growing methods. The Trust actively works to place farmers on the property, actively producing food for the local community. The 178-acre Ames Creek Farm in Carnation was saved by the Trust in 2006 and is farmed by Full Circle Farm, Growing Things Farm, and Children's Garden Farm.

**Seattle Farmers Market Association (SFMA)**

[www.fremontmarket.com](http://www.fremontmarket.com)

SFMA, a nonprofit organization, operates and manages the Ballard, Fremont, Madrona, and Wallingford farmers markets.

**Vashon Island Growers Association (VIGA)**

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

VIGA is a chapter of Washington Tilth and a nonprofit educational organization devoted to the promotion and protection of farms and gardening operations on Vashon-Maury Island. VIGA works to protect open-space for the promotion of agriculture and seeks opportunities to increase the number and quality of growing operations as a viable livelihood. VIGA operates and manages the Vashon Farmers Market.

**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 members 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 Department of Health (DOH)**

The DOH operates the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program that provides about \$30 per market season to low income women and children to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. At the community level, nutritionists actively promote healthy eating to their clients and work with market managers to increase the visibility of farmers markets.

**Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)**

DSHS partners with farmers markets to operate the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program that provides about \$40 per market season to low income seniors to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at farmers markets. In addition, DSHS works with farmers markets and farmers to participate in the SNAP (food stamp) program so that low income shoppers can use their EBT cards at farmers markets.

**Washington State Farmers Market Association (WSFMA)**

[www.wafarmersmarkets.com](http://www.wafarmersmarkets.com)

WSFMA supports and promotes vibrant and sustainable farmers markets in Washington State. Their overall vision is to have a thriving and sustainable farmers market within reach of every resident. WSFMA provides an online directory of member markets; access to affordable product liability insurance to market members; hosts an annual educational conference for farmers market managers and others interested in supporting vibrant farmers markets; and produces an annual market directory. WSFMA also supports and participates in a variety of ongoing research projects directed at improving market capacity, farmer access to markets and increasing shoppers at markets.

**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. WSFAB's goals are to: promote, evaluate and review the effectiveness of the WSDA Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program and WSU Small Farm Team; improve public and producer awareness of the Small Farm and Direct Marketing Program and Small Farm Team; provide recommendations for program focus and project work by identifying the needs and issues affecting small farms and direct marketing efforts; efficiently run board meetings and to work effectively with the program staff members; and assist in outreach efforts to member areas of representation (i.e., farmers, farmers markets,

education and outreach, etc.) of program activities and coordinate this constituency to assist with program activities.

**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. WSU Extension, in partnership with other organizations in Washington and other states, provides a wide diversity of agricultural education, including the successful Cultivating Success courses and many programs supporting new and immigrant farmers. Extension also supports a wide variety of community programs, including Master Gardeners, Master Livestock Advisories, 4-H, and FoodSense/Change program. The impacts of these programs can be quite profound. From the first small program in King County in 1973, for example, the Master Gardener program has since expanded across the US and is quickly becoming a global enterprise.

King County budget cuts for 2010 resulted in loss of WSU King County Extension staff members and programming, except for 4-H programs.

**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 of King County's partner organizations 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 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.

**WithinReach**

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

WithinReach is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to ensure optimal health for all families in Washington by connecting them to the programs, resources and information they need to build healthy families. They have long-standing public-private partnerships with the Washington State Department of Health, the Department of Social and Health Services, the WIC program and others. They provide application assistance at sites throughout King County to help families learn about and enroll for Basic Food (Food Stamps), Apple Health for Kids, First Steps Pregnancy Medical, and WIC.