

# KING COUNTY AGRICULTURE COMMISSION

## MEETING NOTICE

THURSDAY, MAY 10, 2018

4:00-7:00 P.M.

VASHON PUBLIC LIBRARY

VASHON ISLAND

### PROPOSED MEETING AGENDA

(AGENDA ITEM TIMES ARE TENTATIVE)

4:00	<b>Call to Order</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Welcome and Introductions</li><li>Approval of Agenda</li><li>Approval of Minutes (March)</li></ul>	Leann Krainick, Chair Pro Tem
4:15	<b>Public Comment</b> related to a specific agenda item <i>3 minutes/person; limit 3 people same side of any issue</i>	Leann Krainick
4:20	<b>Old Business - Updates</b> (approx. 2 min each) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Commission Details - Farm tour planning mtg, emails</li><li>KC Ag Program</li><li>Pearson Eddy</li><li>Farm, Fish, Flood 2.0</li><li>King Conservation District</li><li>Farm Bureau</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Patrice Barrentine</li><li>Richard Martin</li><li>Richard Martin</li><li>Meredith Molli</li><li>Josh Monaghan</li><li>Bruce Elliott, Rosella Mosby</li></ul>
4:30	<b>Council Presentation/Farm Tour Committee</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><a href="#">Ag Commission Presentation to PRE Committee of Council</a></li><li>Report back on May 1 presentation to Council</li><li>Present to Forest Commission on May 17</li><li>Thank you Letter<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Motion/Vote</li></ul></li></ul>	Committee Members
5:00	<b>Winery Code Amendments Transmitted to Council</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview and Current Action</li></ul>	John Taylor
5:10	<b>Community Service Area's newly proposed department</b>	Alan Painter, Manager, Community Services Area
5:20	<b>Local Food Initiative Annual Report and Discussion</b>	Mike Lufkin, Mgr. Food Economy
5:40	<b>Break</b>	
5:50	<b>Farmland Preservation Program Update</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview of Protected Acreage</li><li>Farmland Mapping Project</li><li>Lease Program</li><li>Targets</li><li>Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Ted Sullivan, Farmland Preservation Program Manager
6:20	<b>Beefing Up Infrastructure USDA Mobile Meat Processing Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview of Project, Partners and Progress</li><li>Q&amp;A</li></ul>	Patrice Barrentine, Policy and Economic Development
6:50	<b>General Public Comment</b> <i>3 minutes/person; limit 3 people same side of any issue</i>	Leann Krainick
6:55	<b>Concerns of Commissioners</b>	Leann Krainick
7:00	<b>Adjourn</b>	Leann Krainick

**Next Meeting : July 12, 4-7pm, Enumclaw Sales Pavilion Café, Enumclaw  
2:30pm Tour for Commissioners and Staff at Krainick Dairy**



**King County**

**Water and Land Resources Division**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
King Street Center  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
**206-477-4800** Fax 206-296-0192  
TTY Relay: 711

**King County Agriculture Commission  
DRAFT Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
WSU King County Extension Office, Renton**

<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Commissioners</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>Ex Officio</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>A</b>
Leann Krainick, Chair Pro-Tem	X		Lora Liegel	X		Fereshteh Dehkordi, DPER	X	
Amy Holmes, Vice Chair Pro-Tem	X		Darron Marzolf	X		Becky Elias, SKCPH		X
Roger Calhoon		X	Meredith Molli	X		Josh Monaghan, KCD	X	
Sarah Collier	X		Rosella Mosby	X		John Taylor, DNRP	X	
Bruce Elliott	X		Leigh Newman-Bell	X		Kevin Wright, WSU	X	
Year Eng	X		Paul Pink	X				
Nayab Khan		X						

*P=Present; A=Absent;*

<b>County Staff/Representatives Present</b>			
Patrice Barrentine, DNRP	Richard Martin, DNRP	Alan Painter, DNRP	
Mike Lufkin, DNRP	Megan Moore, DNRP	April Sanders, KCC Staff	

<b>Guests Present</b>			
Kevin Haggerty, Oxbow Farm	Julie Kintzi, Tilth Alliance	Nicole Witham, WSU Ext.	
Nancy Hutto, farmer	Laura Lewis, WSU Extension		

**Meeting Action Summary**

- **Approval of March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Meeting Minutes**
- **County, Commission, and Organizational Updates**
- **King County Council Presentation & Farm Tour Committee**
- **Commission Representation on Committees/Boards**
- **Presentation: WSU Food Systems Program & KC Extension Programs**
- **KC Land Acquisition Policy**
- **Commission Policies & Procedures Review**

*Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm*

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Leigh Newman-Bell made a motion to approve today’s agenda as written. Lora Liegel seconded the motion, and it carried unanimously.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes (March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018)**

Patrice Barrentine noted the absence of prior meeting handouts attached to the minutes, and promised to include them in next meeting’s packet. Paul Pink said he was omitted from the attendance list; it was agreed to correct this.

Bruce Elliott motioned to accept the minutes with Mr. Pink’s amendment; Mr. Pink seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

**Public Comment (Related to Specific Agenda Item)**

- **Nancy Hutto**, farmer and former Commission chair, spoke on proposed changes to the Policies & Procedures. She stressed a need for the Commission to serve as an independent voice for agriculture in King County, and

welcome public participation. She said as such the Commission needs to remain flexible in its agenda-setting, and not set time limits on public comment. She said the current Policies & Procedures' Statement of Purpose, including the Commission's mission statement and duties, still applies to the Commission's unique nature. She noted that while there are ways to update the existing document, she sees no need for major changes.

## Old Business – Updates

- **Commission Details (Patrice Barrentine):**
  - Ms. Barrentine introduced Fereshteh Dehkordi, ex-officio Commissioner representing DPER.
  - KCIT is still setting up new Commissioners' official email addresses. Ms. Barrentine will advise when these are available.
- **King County Agriculture Program (Richard Martin):**
  - Steve Evans' former position is open for recruitment until April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The position duties include: working with the Working Farmland Partnership program, serving as primary agriculture representative on FFF's riparian buffers task force, and landowner outreach as a "farmbudsman."
  - Snoqualmie Valley landowner Michelle Blakely, with aid from Patrice Barrentine and Fereshteh Dehkordi, has achieved necessary permitting for construction and occupying her new home. Mr. Martin noted this highlights a need for dedicated staff to focus on individual landowner challenges.
  - The 2017 KC land survey data is nearly finalized. Of nearly 40,000 acres farmed in 2017, 60% were for food, with the remainder non-food producing, primarily horses. Compared to the 2013 survey, this indicates a 2,000 acre increase in food production. Another 5,600 acres have been identified as farmable but unfarmed, and will be focused on as part of the Working Farmland Partnership.
- **Pearson Eddy (Richard Martin):**
  - A March 26th stakeholder meeting with NRCS reviewed vegetation management recommendations. NRCS appears to be favorably considering the recommendations. Next step is to determine necessary state/county permitting to implement them. Heavy thinning of vegetation is acceptable, but major clearing in a floodplain requires more complex permitting.
  - Ed McCarthy, a third-party consultant selected by Snoqualmie Valley farmers, has been tasked to review the County's water-level modeling to verify accuracy.
  - The County and other stakeholders are refocusing on drainage issues, which present a more immediate concern than the trees, which take decades to mature. The County and WID are compiling strategies to address drainage into King County from Snohomish County (SC). KC is also working with NRCS and SC to address measures SC can take to mitigate their drainage coming into KC.
- **Farm Fish Flood 2.0 (Meredith Molli, Josh Monaghan):**
  - Several task force and caucus meetings have convened in the past few weeks. The focus has been to prioritize goals to structure a schedule. The next Implementation Committee meeting is the morning of April 25<sup>th</sup> at the Duvall visitor center.
  - Mr. Monaghan observed that when Siri Erickson-Brown represented the Commission in the first FFF process, other Commissioners were only given a "crash course" on FFF late in the process, which hindered their ability to advise and support her. He raised John Taylor's proposal from last meeting, to form a subcommittee to support Ms. Molli in representing the Commission for FFF 2.0.
  - Ms. Molli suggested an FFF review session for new Commissioners. She agreed to lead the review, with Mr. Taylor and Richard Martin. It will be held during September's meeting in Carnation.
- **King Conservation District (Josh Monaghan):**
  - Regional Food Grant project applications are due later this month.
  - KCD is funding two new major projects. One is a collaboration with UW to evaluate KCD's grant program. The second involves three strategic initiatives: institutional purchasing; helping farmers' markets learn from each other; and a statewide stakeholder group, led by DOE, focused on agriculture Best Management Practices (BMPs) for water quality.
- **Farm Bureau (Bruce Elliott, Rosella Mosby):**
  - The next King-Pierce Bureau meeting will be next Monday evening in Sumner.
  - 70 people, mainly young farmers, attended a leadership conference two weeks ago in Wenatchee.
  - The Bureau is working on several agricultural issues in Pierce County.
- **Local Food Initiative (Mike Lufkin):**
  - The 2017 LFI report will be released next week, and be the focus of a full presentation at May's Commission meeting.

- April 25<sup>th</sup> is the annual KC Kitchen Cabinet meeting, which will focus on looking forward and determining what can be done to more efficiently reach goals.

### **King County Council Presentation & Farm Tour Committee (Committee Members)**

The Commission's planned farm tour with King County Councilmembers is scheduled for July. However, the committee's immediate focus is the Commission briefing to KCC. The briefing will now be before KCC's Planning, Rural Services, and Environmental (PRSE) Committee, and scheduled for the morning of May 1<sup>st</sup>. This committee is chaired by Councilmember Kathy Lambert. The presentation will be 30 minutes, with 15 minutes each to present and a follow-up Q & A with Councilmembers.

Leann Krainick suggested pictures would speak more effectively than words on a PowerPoint slide, and anyone with pictures to include should send them to Patrice Barrentine. Ms. Barrentine reviewed a list of potential topics. John Taylor suggested boiling down the presentation to an overview of the state of agriculture, and three critical "asks" of KCC, as he saw the proposed topic list as too long. He recommended making Councilmembers aware of agriculture in rural areas, getting a commitment from several Councilmembers to attend the farm tour, and a segment on FFF. April Sanders, staff for Councilmember Lambert, said Lambert's view is the Commission should decide their own agenda, and be certain their requests of KCC are actionable items.

Mr. Taylor noted that Councilmember Dave Upthegrove, who sits on the PRSE Committee, is vice chair of the Flood Control District (FCD), and Councilmember Lambert also sits on that Commission. The FCD had minimal involvement in FFF, and has not supported FFF recommendations related to flood preparation, which falls under their authority. Mr. Taylor advised the Commission consider this when determining their requests of KCC; Ms. Sanders agreed.

Meredith Molli asked how to explain to KCC members who are not aware of agriculture's importance, to make them aware of this. It was suggested to touch on farmers' markets, which are a visible, diverse, and generally positive urban face to agriculture. Ms. Barrentine said the presentation should highlight Commissioners' farms, as the Commission represents a diverse cross-section of agriculture in the County. She advised highlighting Commissioners' experience with agriculture policy and representing other organizations.

Ms. Sanders confirmed any Commissioners at the briefing would be welcome to answer questions during the Q & A session. Ms. Barrentine said she would email the current topic ideas list to Commissioners to prioritize for the briefing.

### **Commissioner Representation on Committees/Boards (Leann Krainick)**

Ms. Krainick turned Commission attention to committee membership. The following committees were addressed:

- **FFF 2.0:** This is proposed to support Meredith Molli's efforts representing the Commission for FFF 2.0. It was suggested forming this committee be postponed until after the Commission FFF briefing in September.
- **Selection:** Paul Pink volunteered to serve.
- **Land:** No additional volunteers.
- **Farm King County Technical Assistance:** Josh Monaghan and Kevin Wright agreed to serve.
- **Marketing, Promotion, and Processing:** Ms. Krainick and Leigh Newman-Bell volunteered to serve.
- **Council Presentation and Farm Tour:** No additional volunteers.
- **KCD Advisory Committee Representative:** Ms. Molli voiced willingness to continue as an alternate. Sarah Collier and Amy Holmes also volunteered to serve as alternates. Mr. Pink agreed to serve as primary representative. Ms. Krainick asked Mr. Monaghan to verify it is acceptable to have rotating multiple alternates.

**\*\*BREAK\*\***

### **Presentation: WSU Food Systems Program & KC Extension Programs (Laura Lewis, WSU)**

Dr. Lewis presented an overview of WSU Extension's statewide Food Systems Program, which grew from the former Small Farms Team. The program focuses on research and education in the many facets of achieving a sustainable regional food system. She reviewed a full list of its education program and course offerings throughout the state; the presentation will be available to Commissioners. The information is also online at <http://foodsystems.wsu.edu>.

Kevin Wright then reviewed the mission and makeup of WSU Extension's Renton office, and their other connections to agriculture, such as the 4-H program and school gardens. Patrice Barrentine noted it is exciting to see WSU rebuild the food systems program this way. She reminded all present of the free water education workshop being held next week. There will also be a "Pollinator Week" starting June 18<sup>th</sup>, focused on pollinators and conservation.

## KC Land Acquisition Policy (John Taylor)

Mr. Taylor reviewed a draft memo from last month's Commission meeting, crafted in response to Commissioners' concerns on how the County will handle multi-objective land acquisitions for its Land Conservation Initiative when those acquisitions have agricultural characteristics.

He reported no written feedback was received except from Cynthia Krass of the WID, who stated while the proposal makes sense overall, she has a concern it misses the main point of FFF, including the issue of capping the amount of agricultural land taken out of production for buffers and restoration projects. He said he believes the outcome of the work from FFF 2.0's buffers, regulatory, and agriculture strategic plan task forces will together serve to articulate the specific acreage the farming community would be willing to part with towards salmon recovery projects.

Amy Holmes asked if the "filter" mentioned in the memo would apply to all APDs, voicing concern that the FFF process was designed specifically to address Snoqualmie APD concerns. She said to apply it to all areas may be an overreach or may miss issues specific to certain areas. Mr. Taylor acknowledged this, stating this "filter" is an interim policy until a final FFF agreement is reached. He conceded there is not a specifically defined "filter," more of a general philosophical approach. Ms. Holmes suggested using a term other than "filter."

Mr. Taylor requested help in drafting this policy, perhaps as a subcommittee. He said that as the typical time between acquiring land and actual construction on a restoration project is about five years, there would be ample time for discussions. He noted the main issue to resolve now is to define how much farmland would be taken for salmon projects and buffers, and how much land is needed to maintain a viable APD. He said this interim policy is an attempt for the County to be transparent in its process to determine which lands would be used for projects. He added in some cases an entire acquisition may not be needed for a recovery project, just a portion, but there will be no major projects in the Snoqualmie APD until the FFF process concludes.

Meredith Molli, Rosella Mosby, and Josh Monaghan agreed to assist Mr. Taylor in revising this draft, with a plan to bring the revised draft to the Land Committee for review.

## Commission Policies & Procedures (Patrice Barrentine)

Ms. Barrentine reviewed the history of the Policies & Procedures and its revision process. She said based on last month's Commission discussion, this review should go to a wider committee than just the Executive Committee, and then return as a recommendation to the full Commission. After some discussion, it was agreed to table forming this committee for six months, to allow time for the Commission briefing on FFF and get past the summer farming season.

Rosella Mosby motioned to table, until October, referral of the P & P to a committee for review. Paul Pink seconded the motion. The motion carried, with nine voting in favor and two opposing.

Ms. Barrentine noted if the review is not finished this year, the Commission will function under the existing P & P in the meantime. She offered to record Commissioner comments on the P & P to refer back to during the October review.

## General Public Comment

There was no public comment during this period.

## Concerns of Commissioners

- **Amy Holmes** reported that the recent Food Tank Summit, while interesting, felt a bit myopic from a farming viewpoint. She said there was a lot of federal-level policy information, but little farmer representation. Leigh Newman-Bell agreed, adding there was a lack of practical/actionable items for people to take away.
- **Josh Monaghan** reiterated Nancy Hutto's point that the Commission should remain a welcome place for farmer voices and consider that in their P & P review.
- **Leann Krainick** announced her husband Mike is now on the board of directors for the Northwest Dairy Association, also known as Darigold, the first member on this board from King County in over 15 years. She relayed a message from CEO Stan Ryan: all of agriculture is important, and he does not want the problems affecting dairy farmers in the Midwest to happen here.
- **John Taylor** reported on a recent County ADAP presentation, which highlighted progress made in drainage clearing and program costs in recent years. He said the work plan and budget for the next few years is being drawn up soon, and anyone with requests or feedback should contact him or Josh Baldi in the next 2-3 months.
- **Ms. Holmes** and Patrice Barrentine discussed transportation logistics for next month's Commission meeting on Vashon Island. Ms. Barrentine said she would arrange for a County van to transport attendees, and Ms. Holmes offered to pick up anyone who needed it at the Vashon ferry terminal. All interested attendees were instructed to RSVP to Ms. Barrentine.

*Meeting Adjourned at 7:10 pm*

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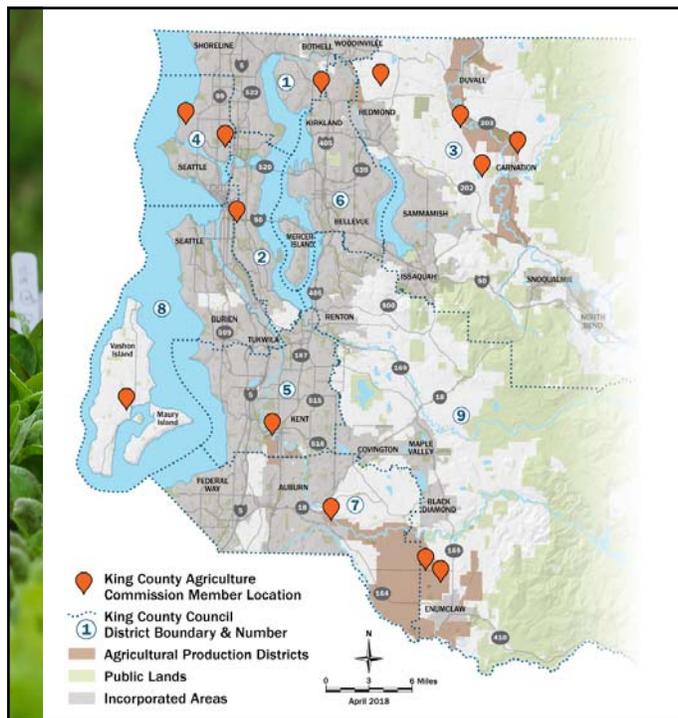
**Next Meeting**

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 4:00 – 7:00 pm, Vashon Public Library, Vashon

# King County Agriculture Commission



King County Council  
Planning, Rural Service & Environment Committee  
May 1, 2018



## 13 Commissioners

# Unique

## Agriculture Commission:

One of three commissions  
that deals with  
Privately Held Land\*

\*[Rural Forestry, Noxious Weeds]



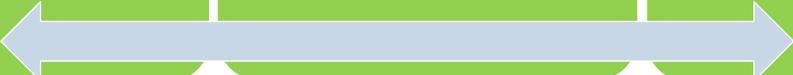
## Recent Accomplishments & Current Work

		
<b>Ag Code Amendments</b>	<b>Farmland Preservation Program</b>	<b>Farm Fish Flood</b>



## Now & In the Future Critical Challenges

		
<b>Protecting Farmland for Agricultural Production</b>	<b>Farm Infrastructure and Marketing</b>	<b>Drainage &amp; Water</b>





**No food policy without proper farm policy**

**Budgets are a form of policy**



**No food policy without proper farm policy**

**Budgets are a form of policy**



## Funding



Farm Fish  
Flood



Farmland  
Preservation  
Program



Streamline  
Permitting



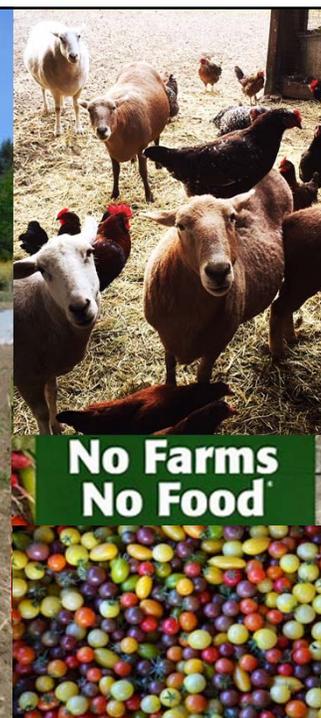
Drainage

# Communication



**Join Us!**

**In July for a tour of  
Commissioners' Farms  
1) North County  
2) South County**



# Questions?



Photo Credits: Audra Mulkern, Zachary D. Lyons, Bruce Elliott, Leigh Newman-Bell, Amy Holmes, Patricia Barrattine



## King County

### Agriculture Commission

Water and Land Resources Division  
Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
King Street Center  
201 South Jackson Street, Suite 600  
Seattle, WA 98104-3855  
206.477-4800

May 10, 2018

The Honorable Kathy Lambert  
Chair, PRE Committee, King County Council  
516 Third Ave, Room 1200  
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Councilmember Lambert:

The King County Agriculture Commission offers its sincere thanks to the members of the PRE committee and Chair Kathy Lambert for inviting representatives from the King County Agriculture Commission to present at your May 1, 2018 meeting.

The chance to share with you the current state and challenges ahead for King County farmers was key in establishing a strong and ongoing direct relationship with the committee and the council as a whole. We greatly appreciate the additional time allotted on your agenda to hear our concerns regarding farmland preservation, drainage, economic challenges, and traffic safety.

We look forward to returning soon to further report on topics raised during our most recent visit, and while there are many ongoing issues that were not discussed, and concerns that may arise in the future, please know that we are here for you. Please continue to use our expertise and knowledge regarding issues that affect King County's agriculture sector.

Finally, we invite and encourage all King County Council members and staff to tour Commissioners' farms in July; our staff liaison, Patrice Barrentine, will be reaching out soon to plan and coordinate this. We love to see council members and staff attend our meetings throughout the year. It is a great way to gain further insight and knowledge about farming. The Commission is extremely passionate and dedicated to supporting, improving, and championing local agriculture. With the full support and participation of the King County Council, we can grow great things for our region.

Best Regards,

Leann Krainick, Chair Pro Tem  
King County Agriculture Commission

cc: King County Councilmembers  
Dow Constantine, County Executive  
Christie True, Director, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
(DNRP)  
Josh Baldi, Division Director, Water and Land Resources Division (WLRD),  
DNRP  
John Taylor, Assistant Division Director, WLRD, DNRP



## Beefing Up Infrastructure: USDA Meat Processing





King County Ag Commission  
May 10, 2018  
Understanding the Landscape

Patrice Barrentine  
Agriculture Policy & Economic Development  
King County

### WSDA Inspected Custom-Exempt Slaughter/Processing

- Custom Farm Slaughterer = 72
- Custom Slaughter Establishment = 17
- Custom Meat Facility = 103

Business Name	Meat Facility Endorsement	Slaughter Establishment Endorsement	Mobile Farm Slaughter Endorsement
Olson's Meats and Smokehouse, LLC	True		True
Happy Time Farm	True	True	
Alm Ranch		True	
Lind's Custom Meats LLC	True		True
Sea Breeze Farm, LLC	True		

Custom meat operations slaughter and process meat only for the animal owner(s)

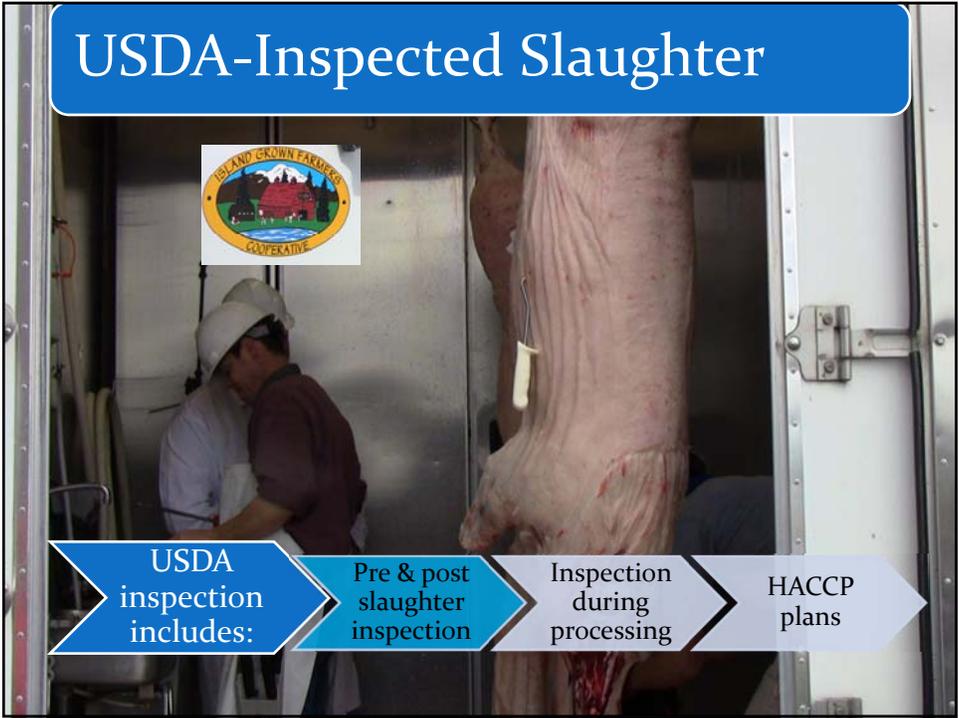
For HOME USE ONLY

Cannot be sold, traded or given away

Must be labeled "Not for Sale"



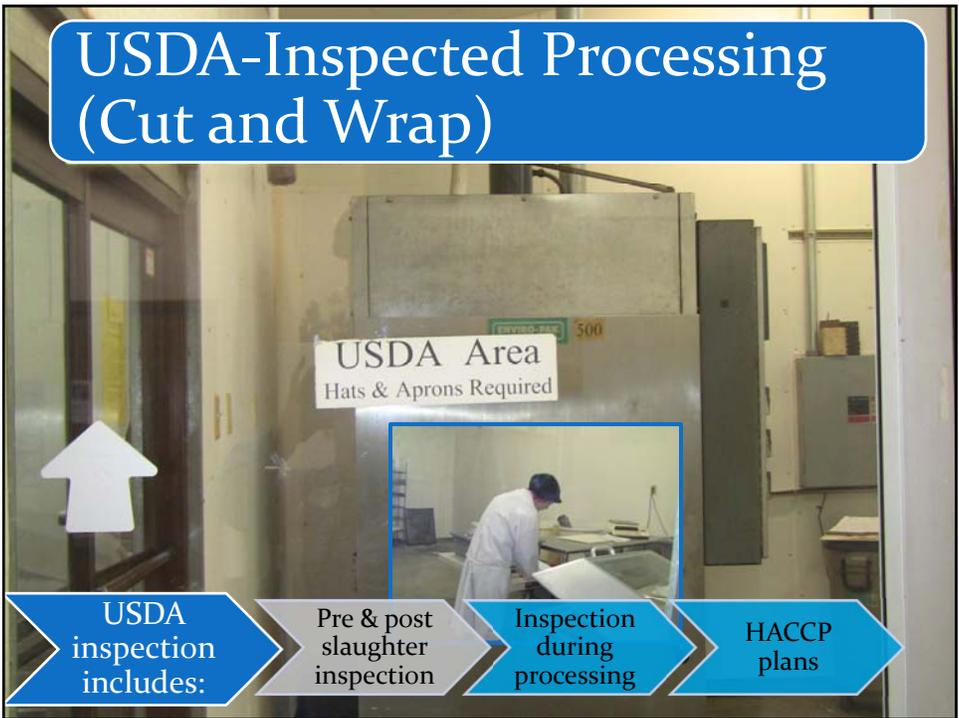
## USDA-Inspected Slaughter



**USDA inspection includes:**

- Pre & post slaughter inspection
- Inspection during processing
- HACCP plans

## USDA-Inspected Processing (Cut and Wrap)



**USDA inspection includes:**

- Pre & post slaughter inspection
- Inspection during processing
- HACCP plans

# Barriers for Small-Scale Livestock Producers to USDA Processing



Access to ~~14~~ 4 USDA-inspected slaughter facilities

- Distance traveled
- Small producers don't meet volume requirements for large facilities
- Small facilities lack capacity for new producers

Access to USDA-inspected cut and wrap processing facilities



Customer Demand

+

Farmers need processing

+

Processor needs customers



The Problem

Asked King County for help

## Coming together... the plot thickens...



## Purpose, Approach, and Rationale

Delivery of education and outreach to producers *and* providing infrastructure matched to producers' needs

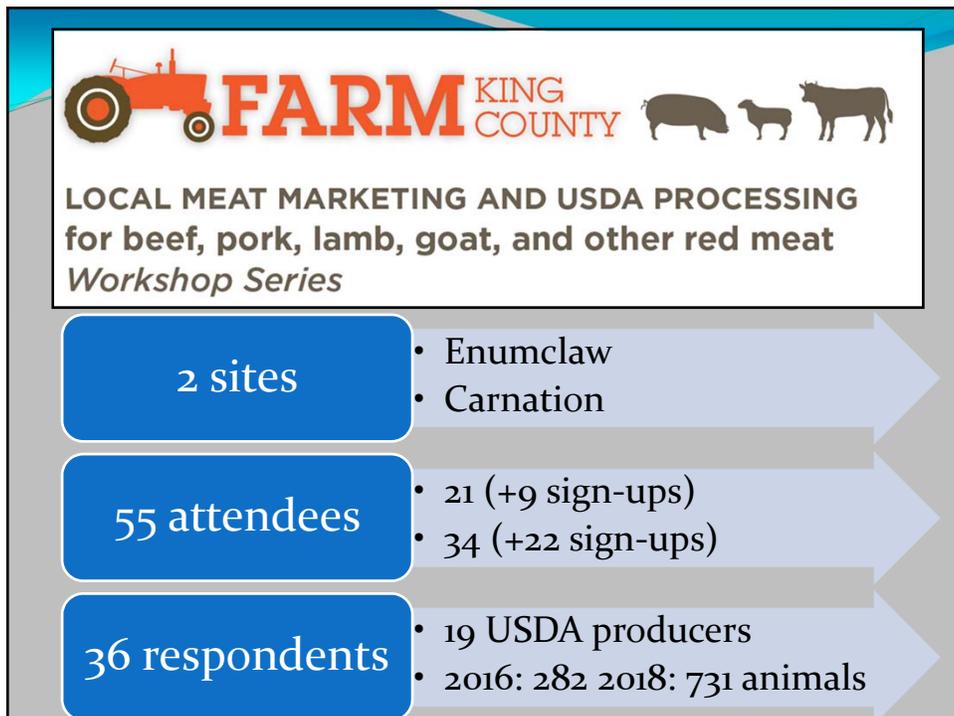


- Processing Options, Markets and Costs
- Assessment of Producers' Needs
- Navigation of Complex Code for Permitting Sites

Infrastructure and site development that match producers' needs for USDA slaughter services served by PSP Mobile Processing Unit



- Driveway, Penning, Concrete pad
- Electricity, Potable water, Septic, Composting





# ANY QUESTIONS?



## **Modernizing regulations to support thriving wineries and breweries while protecting the environment and rural communities**

April 26, 2018

### **Executive Constantine proposed legislation that will modernize regulations to support the region's wineries, breweries, and distilleries while protecting the environment and rural integrity of unincorporated King County.**

Executive Dow Constantine today sent a proposal to the King County Council to support the region's growing winery, brewery, and distillery small businesses while protecting the natural environment and rural character of unincorporated communities.

The legislation modernizes the regulatory structure for wineries, breweries, and distilleries, establishes a new business license for the industry, and provides clarity on how rules will be enforced. It is based on extensive outreach and engagement with residents, farmers, wineries, breweries, distilleries, and other stakeholders.

"We are modernizing regulations to support our region's thriving wineries, breweries, and distilleries while protecting the natural environment and rural integrity of unincorporated King County," said Executive Constantine. "By working together with residents, farmers, and entrepreneurs, we created a plan that will promote vibrant small businesses and preserve historic farmland."

King County's Department of [Permitting and Environmental Review](#) will enforce the new business license to ensure that wineries, breweries, and distilleries do not negatively impact agricultural land and the surrounding residential areas. The staff will produce a toolkit to help businesses navigate the revised permit requirements.

Public Health – Seattle & King County's [Food Safety Division](#) will continue to ensure that wineries, tasting rooms, and breweries adhere to health requirements consistent with all other businesses that serve food and beverages.

"The voters' decision to preserve the Sammamish Valley for agriculture in the 1970s created one of the great legacies that we all enjoy today," said King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci. "Preserving the Valley into the future means protecting farmland while also allowing appropriate economic activity to ensure continuing viability and vitality in the Valley. Alongside farms, wineries and tasting rooms could provide this economic anchor for the Valley, but we must find a balance that allows them to succeed while preserving the incredible agriculture and rural environment. I look forward to working on the Executive's proposal to modernize the land use code and finding a balance that preserves our rural and agricultural areas around the county while supporting the growing adult beverage industry."

"The amendments will improve protections for King County's working farms while allowing wineries, breweries, and distilleries that add value to locally grown agricultural products," said Tim Trohimovich, Director of Planning and Law at Futurwise.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2018/April/26-winery-brewery-legislation.aspx>

"As a winery owner, property owner and resident of the Sammamish Valley in Woodinville, I can very much appreciate the efforts by the King County Council and King County Executive Dow Constantine to address the myriad of issues surrounding the winery and tasting room zoning requirements and the impact it has on our area," Greg Lill, President of Cashmere Partners and President Emeritus of DeLille Cellars. For the vast majority of the wineries this clarity is needed and will give a structure on how those businesses can operate in harmony with our residential neighbors to create a dynamic and vibrant wine industry within our county."

## **Frequent Questions**

### **Is King County shutting down breweries in unincorporated communities?**

King County isn't "shutting down" any breweries, wineries, or tasting rooms. We have been responding to neighbors complaining about the impacts of people operating breweries that violate land-use ordinances.

The legislation that the Executive has proposed will modernize regulations to support our region's thriving wineries, breweries, and distilleries while protecting the natural environment and rural integrity of unincorporated King County.

### **What about property owners who have a license from the state Liquor and Cannabis Board?**

Having a license from the state Liquor and Cannabis Board doesn't mean you are exempt from county land-use ordinances, which are in place to preserve the rural integrity of unincorporated communities and protect the natural environment.

### **Why isn't King County enforcing the code that's already in place?**

The existing codes were created before the winery and adult beverage industry rapidly grew in the Sammamish Valley. That's why we worked with residents, farmers, and entrepreneurs to modernize regulations so codes provide more clarity.

### **Why has King County allowed wineries to operate illegally for so long?**

The winery and adult beverage industry in the Sammamish Valley took off so fast that it quickly outgrew our capacity to provide proper oversight. That's why Executive Constantine proposed this legislation: to ensure that our regulatory oversight is able to operate at the scale needed in the Sammamish Valley and in other unincorporated areas of King County.

### **How will you help protect residents and homeowners from the noise impacts of allowing more wineries and tasting rooms in the Sammamish Valley?**

We will create a new business license for wineries and tasting rooms that will be enforced by the King County Department of Permitting and Environmental Review, ensuring they protect the people and natural environment in the region.

### **Won't this proposal cause more traffic in the rural area? What does King County plan to do to mitigate those impacts?**

No, this allows only limited hours of operation and access to arterial routes.

### **Doesn't allowing these wineries to continue operating cause toxic runoff on our agricultural lands?**

No, all development must adhere to county stormwater standards, requiring all runoff to be address on-site.

<https://www.kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2018/April/26-winery-brewery-legislation.aspx>

## Why are wineries only allowed to have 24 events per year when all other event spaces in the rural area can have 60?

Wineries are allowed up to 24 special events each year outside of their regular hours of operation. One of the demonstration projects that the county proposes in this ordinance looks at lifting the cap on special events for wineries in the rural area while limiting the size and scale of each special event based on number of guests and parking capacity.

- [Sammamish Valley Area Wine and Beverage Industry Study](#)
- [King County Executive Ordinance on Winery and Adult Beverages](#)

We are modernizing regulations to support our region's thriving wineries, breweries, and distilleries while protecting the natural environment and rural integrity of unincorporated King County. By working together with residents, farmers, and entrepreneurs, we created a plan that will promote vibrant small businesses and preserve historic farmland.

Dow Constantine, King County Executive

The voters' decision to preserve the Sammamish Valley for agriculture in the 1970s created one of the great legacies that we all enjoy today. Preserving the Valley into the future means protecting farmland while also allowing appropriate economic activity to ensure continuing viability and vitality in the Valley. Alongside farms, wineries and tasting rooms could provide this economic anchor for the Valley, but we must find a balance that allows them to succeed while preserving the incredible agriculture and rural environment. I look forward to working on the Executive's proposal to modernize the land use code and finding a balance that preserves our rural and agricultural areas around the county while supporting the growing adult beverage industry.

Claudia Balducci, King County Council

The amendments will improve protections for King County's working farms while allowing wineries, breweries, and distilleries that add value to locally grown agricultural products.

Tim Trohimovich, Director of Planning and Law at Futurwise

As a winery owner, property owner and resident of the Sammamish Valley in Woodinville, I can very much appreciate the efforts by the King County Council and King County Executive Dow Constantine to address the myriad of issues surrounding the winery and tasting room zoning requirements and the impact it has on our area. For the vast majority of the wineries this clarity is needed and will give a structure on how those businesses can operate in harmony with our residential neighbors to create a dynamic and vibrant wine industry within our county.

Greg Lill, President of Cashmere Partners and President Emeritus of DeLille Cellars

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:** [Chad Lewis](#), Executive Office, 206-263-1250

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