



The Community Food Co-op's Farm Fund establishes programs that benefit the local farming community, encouraging ecological and socially responsible stewardship of our farmland and increasing community access to healthy, local food. Since 2000, the Co-op has dedicated a portion of its annual donation budget specifically to support sustainable agriculture. You can add your support by donating to the Farm Fund at the registers when you shop at the Co-op.



The Community Food Co-op is Whatcom County's community-owned natural food market. Since 1970 the Co-op has provided quality foods and service, as well as ongoing support for local farmers and community organizations.

How You Can Help

Your donation to the Farm Fund enables the Co-op to continue developing and supporting projects that foster sustainable agriculture in Whatcom County. You can donate at any register in the store or you can mail your donation to:



**Attention: Jean Rogers
1220 N. Forest
Bellingham, WA 98225**

For more information about the Co-op's Farm Fund, contact Jean at 360-734-8158 or email jeanr@communityfood.coop.



Tax deductible donations

Growing Washington is a non-profit organization founded in 2003 by and for farmers. For more information about Growing Washington, see their website at www.growingwashington.org.

You can make a tax-deductible donation to the Just Food project by visiting www.growingwashington.org/just_food.php and clicking the "sign up" link.

For more information about the Just Food project, contact Amaris Lunde, Community Programs Director, Growing Washington, 360-927-1968, Amaris@growingwashington.org.

**Find more info at communityfood.coop/communitydonations.html.*



Supporting the growth of sustainable agriculture in Whatcom County



1220 N. Forest • Bellingham, WA
(360) 734-8158
www.communityfood.coop

WHY SUPPORT SUSTAINABLE FARMING?

As the population in Whatcom County grows, high-quality farmland is being converted to roads, housing developments, and industrial facilities. Supporting the establishment and continued growth of local farms helps balance this trend and protects one of our most precious natural resources. Healthy local farms contribute to the growth of a sustainable local economy and assure a good quality of life in Whatcom County.

Local sustainable farms:

- Supply us fresh, nutritious food
- Maintain stewardship of the land
- Maintain and improve air and water quality
- Provide wildlife habitat
- Decrease the CO₂ footprint of food consumption for all of us in the area.

HOW THE FARM FUND WORKS

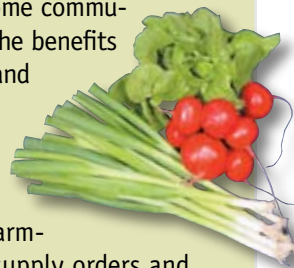
Each year the Farm Fund initiates projects designed to support the growth of sustainable agriculture in Whatcom County. By working with an advisory committee of Co-op members and local farmers, the Co-op determines projects that can be launched or supported through partnership with other organizations committed to sustainable agriculture in our area.



FARM FUND PROJECTS 2007-08

Just Food

The Farm Fund works with Growing Washington* to increase affordable access to local food, while building the capacity of Whatcom County farmers to offer Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). Purchasing CSA shares from local farms early in the season in exchange for weekly boxes of fresh produce is an investment in our local farming future. Just Food makes CSA shares available on a sliding scale basis. Farmers are paid full price for CSA shares that are subsidized by donations from community businesses, organizations, and individuals making it possible for low-income community members to share in the benefits of local, sustainable food and farming.



Bulk Farm Orders

This is a pilot project to develop a system for farmers to combine seasonal supply orders and receive wholesale prices.

Seed Saving Workshop

Planned for October 2007, this workshop will be presented by local, organic seed producers Brian Campbell and Crystine Goldberg of Uprising Seeds and Micaela Colley of the Organic Seed Alliance. The workshop is designed to provide local farmers and gardeners with the skills to grow, save, and market organic seeds.

Update of the original Farm Fund survey

In 2007, local organic farmers were re-surveyed to determine if the program met their needs. This information will help define the future direction of the Farm Fund.

**See back panel for more info about Growing Washington.*

FARM FUND— A HISTORY OF SUCCESS



2000 Farmer Survey and Focus Groups

In 2000, the Farm Fund asked members of our sustainable farming community how they would like to see the Co-op work to maintain and grow the presence of organic and sustainable farming in Whatcom County. The farmers emphasized the need to increase the market for local, sustainably produced food and asked the Co-op to continue to support market development and education.

2001-2002—Whatcom Fresh

In its first two years, the Farm Fund partnered with the Nooksack Valley Center for Sustainable Agriculture to help develop Whatcom Fresh—a labeling program for locally produced foods.

2002—Bellingham Farmers Market

Farm Fund donations in 2002 assisted the Bellingham Farmers Market to expand its marketing outreach to Bellingham and Whatcom County residents, resulting in a record year.

2003-2006—Food To Bank On: Growing New Farms, Feeding the Hungry

Food To Bank On (FTBO) was founded by the Community Food Co-op's Farm Fund in 2003, and administered by Sustainable Connections, which now houses the project within its Food & Farming program. FTBO connects new sustainable farms with market opportunities, training, and mentorship, while paying them to grow food for area food banks. This project has received strong support from our community and local businesses, and the Co-op continues to be a FTBO underwriter. Sustainable Connections' Food & Farming Program promotes a vibrant and sustainable local food system in Northwest Washington.

