

Agriculture Preservation Advisory Committee Outreach Process

I. Charge

The Agricultural Preservation Advisory Committee will develop a draft farm preservation plan for consideration by the Board of Clark County Commissioners that recommends the most effective short- and long-term actions to protect the opportunity to pursue and enhance commercial and non-commercial agriculture in the county. The committee shall explore a full range of tools and strategies for keeping land in farm production. The committee shall identify areas within the county where the opportunity to locally produce a wide variety of agricultural crops and products should be actively supported.

II. Timeline

The Committee is to complete its work and file a final report with the Board of County Commissioners by the end of this year.

III. Status

The committee has reviewed issues of concern and identified several strategies that may be helpful to the farming community. Staff has developed a draft white paper fleshing out the strategies identified. Lead organizations for implementing specific strategies and cost estimates to implement them are still in development. Also in process is the Identification of geographic areas, agricultural production districts, where supporting agriculture may be recommended as a continuing focus for the county.

IV. Outreach Objectives

Broaden awareness of the effort.

Solicit feedback on the preliminary recommendations

V. Potential Outreach Tools/Venues

- Legacy Lands Web page presence, including possible use of SurveyMonkey to solicit feedback.
- Poster and written survey/feedback form to display at various events such as BiZi farms pumpkin patch, farmer's markets, Vancouver food cooperative events etc.
- Presentations to key interests such as the November 6 annual meeting of the Cowlitz/Clark Farm Bureau, NACC, Farm-Forest Association, others.
- Direct e-mail communication providing some background and questionnaire/survey with partners willing to distribute to their membership
- Possible open houses
- Columbian, Reflector, Post-Record articles

VI. Resources Available

- I have some budget for outreach activities.
- I also have a contract with Jean Lawson & Associates to facilitate the Agriculture Advisory committee within which some money is reserved for open house and stakeholder interviews
- Members of the committee will participate in some outreach activities. We just have to match up the who with the when.