

Public Comments

The following is a list of all public comments collected throughout the Open Houses flipcharts, comment cards, and online survey.

Flipchart comments

- We have to figure out how transfer of development rights is going to work.
- Transfer of development rights will NOT work in Clark County!
- Water rights are a challenge. Creation of a "Water District" may be a viable solution.
- Tax breaks for food production vs. open space should be explored
- Agricultural education programs should be promoted.
- Local regulations such as the Habitat Conservation ordinance shouldn't be prohibitive of farming practices.
- Cluster farms together - Agricultural Zones/Districts should be created (residential and agriculture doesn't mix). Fragmenting farmland is prohibitive to farmers.
- Purchase of development rights works; transfer of development rights does not.
- Consider creating a "Water District" in conjunction with Agricultural Districts.
- Promote educating the public regarding the value of preserving farmland
- Storefront requirements are strict and difficult to navigate.
- Rural centers are key. Creation of water, sewer, and stormwater districts in conjunction with rural centers should be explored. Zoning doesn't currently support rural centers. Mixed use is needed.
- There are not enough farmers to support local, permanent farmers markets.
- I farm on acreage that is designated current use-open space (soil conservation criterion). My land is not represented on the current use/zoning map.
- Community commercial kitchens - farmers add value. Consumers can local produce. Opportunity to partner with local churches that have kitchens.
- Treat farmland like wetlands. Need to mitigate.
- Food to schools.

Comment Card Responses

Of the strategies identified, which should receive the highest priority?

Respondents suggested that strategies aimed at the challenge of regulation should receive high priority. They indicated that regulations are a big hurdle and emotionally frustrating. Regulations regarding buffers for small seasonal ditches are unreasonable because if left alone they become berry patches within two years. One person suggested that small farms be exempt from some regulations, such as those concerning commercial kitchens, micro-dairies, and farm stays for the public. Another commented that the "run-off fee" should be revised,

and that anyone with five acres or more of farmland should be exempt. This respondent indicated that he pays for five buildings on his farm and gets no credit for more than 600 acres of timber agriculture land that is doing more for run off than any mitigation the fee pays for. Run off is an urban problem that urbanites, not farmers, should pay for.

Another respondent commented that Rural Centers need help to be economically viable. Large volume detectors (LVDs) for public water supplies are crucial for fire protection. LVD's for sewer and stormwater management."

Another commented that the biggest hurdle is the challenge of conflicts related to an increasing population. This person suggests restrictions on urban growth in order to save prime farm land from development.

Are the other strategies that should be considered? If so, please specify.

Respondents indicated the following strategies should be considered in addition to those presented in the Draft Farm Preservation Strategies Report:

- Agro tourism - Make it easier to hold classes on farm, have farm stays and educate consumers on what farmers do day to day. Visitors can learn skills they can take home and use on a smaller scale. Educated consumers understand and support farms.
- Equipment sharing - Infrastructure cost is HIGH, and it would be helpful to share hay equipment, tractors, etc.
- Update RC zoning to allow mixed use.
- Farmers markets must be made more profitable. Currently, they are too expensive to keep up and don't generate enough profit for farmers after all expenses are taken into account.
- Revise health codes - e.g. allow farms to sell products even though they are not processed in commercial kitchens. Have inspections and product testing instead.

Are there specific geographic areas of agricultural activity of interest to you in Clark County? Which ones should be considered for farm preservation projects?

- Many people would be part time farmers if they could work locally and not spend so much time commuting.
- Level land where the soils are prime and water is available. All areas in Clark County (except wetlands) can grow trees.

If you chose, please indicate why you are interested in this project. This will help us keep the public informed.

- I have owned Fargher Lake Store for over 19 years. Also, I have a timber tree farm and have worked with Fish First and the Clark Conservation District.
- I have a farm and am surrounded by lots five acres or less. Five acres is not enough land to farm on for the most part. Restricting more sub-dividing is a first step.

Online Survey Responses

Challenge # 1: Need for stronger organization

- Development should be contained within urban growth boundaries, and paving over farmland for paths and walkways should be decreased; farmland should be used as farmland and saved at all costs. A good amount of very fertile land is located within the urban growth boundary. Low-impact farming techniques could be used in developed and developing rural and urban areas. Current regulation should encourage and not discourage farming.
- An agricultural strategy should consider both current and future (100 to 150 years) needs. Land should be preserved to feed four times the current population in order to meet current and future needs. An agricultural approach should consider human and environmental health and the use of genetically modified organisms GMOs. The county should have the goal of having the highest quality of agriculture that produces the healthiest food to be grown and served locally by knowledgeable individuals.
- Efforts should be made to ensure the use of the most up-to-date farming methods, including organic and biodynamic farming. Efforts should be made to teach farmers how to grow new, diverse crops utilizing less energy use and without the use of traditional pesticides and fertilizers. Sustainable poly-crop agriculture should be preferred over degrading farm practices. Sustainable poly-crop agriculture builds soil, protects the soil food web, avoids sprays and artificial fertilizers, efficiently manages rainwater, prevents nutrient runoff to streams, and creates a vibrant system that will perpetuate for future generations without degradation. Many would like to see an organization or body that teaches farmers these types of organic, productive methods, re-generative soil building techniques, using composts, etc, and techniques that actually improve farmland and result in wildlife habitat preservation.
- Farmer input should always be considered in creating new plans.
- Over-regulation of small farms is a persistent and problematic situation. Small farms have difficulty in being profitable with restrictions on baking without a professional kitchen, and selling meat, eggs or dairy products without extensive permit processes. There should be a differentiation between regulations in place for large-scale producers, and those in place for small farms, micro-dairies, and micro-egg or meat production.
- Farmland should be given dramatic tax reduction and incentives because it serves all of the population, including wildlife.
- Would prefer to see farms across the county rather than clustered in districts.
- Water rights should be taken seriously on a local and State level to insure high water volume and quality.
- The County should consider applying for funds through the *Washington Recreation and Conservation Funding Board* has a *Farmland Preservation program*, which assists in getting a permanent designation of farmland property.

- The County should focus more on small and community farms that promote soil health, diversity, and alternative practices; too much attention is paid to industrial and conventional farms. Furthermore, encouragement of industrial agriculture takes away homes, jobs and lands of many people.
- A commission is a great idea as it provides for specific, educated input to the commissioners and Clark County inhabitants as to the needs and issues related to the farming community and those who wish to purchase from that community.
- The county urgently needs to radically revamp its land use policies to curtail fuel-consuming sprawl and protect farms that can provide food to residents with far less fossil fuel use than distant food sources.
- More government involvement will not help to preserve farming; instead, farmers should have more control.

Challenge # 2: Cost of land

- Work closely with state legislature to ensure growth management rules are effectively preserving agriculture and forest lands. Aide in make adjustments to the rules.
- These concepts might work if the Board of Clark County Commissioners (BOCC) could back the ideas and allows follow through.
- Farmers need some kind of economic parachute, which currently is the use/sale of the land for something else. There could be a program to help farmers get tax incentives that make it affordable to keep the land agricultural. This likely would require some re-education support along with it to encourage saving for retirement in some way other than selling their land.
- Who will pay for this? How much will this cost Joe taxpayer?
- One strategy for new farmers may be for several families to jointly purchase the property and farm the land. In order for this to be viable, multiple homes or a large common home may be necessary on one farm property in a cluster fashion. Zoning regulations need to provide for this type of situation.
- Actively put current and future farmlands into land trusts. Make all parks working farms and turn all farms into parks. We see this a lot in Europe. Get rid of the idea that agriculture land is separate from other uses and that there is little public activity.
- Find ways to integrate smaller neighborhood parcels of land as well for high value food production, whether for community gardens or neighborhood orchards. Perhaps these could be parks program, community center or school based programs. Create a community culture of valuing local food production.
- The creation of new farmers has to be linked with allowing farm families access to the city, and introducing the concept of farming to the city-dwellers. Urban farming is not a replacement for traditional farming but makes sure that all watersheds in the area are being looked after in the midst of a spreading urban area. Drastically reducing polluting transit and drastically investing in clean mass transit means that rural and urban can work together.

- Investing in the development of local markets helps ensure that small farms will be successful - this development must also be accompanied by re-educating the public about the benefits of local food.
- Progressive tax structure that credits for soil accumulation, biological water polishing, infiltration
- I would suggest subsidizing local produce and meat/dairy. It is far less costly than the externalities of the chemical dependent forms of farming - just more direct. Educating the public on the hazards of high fructose corn syrup, the level of fat in meat that is finished in a feed lot versus grass fed, the amount of vitamins and minerals present in chicken eggs, and just about all vegetables grown in a high vitamin and mineral area...The public will make the right choice if they have accurate information.
- There are emerging technologies that need development and funding, such as passive geothermal greenhouses, bio-methane heated greenhouses, radiant heated greenhouses, and the best of all, integrated bioshelters that combine all three elements. These technologies could cost-effectively allow us to grow oranges, lemons, and many other tropical plants as well in Clark County.
- The creation of large, single owner parcels is not the direction that Clark County needs to take. However, creation of agricultural districts seems fine. It would be fantastic if it would be possible to designate areas as organic-only as well. This will help the organic farmers keep their farms organic, with less chance of spray, etc harming these folks.
- DENSITY should be the operative principle for Clark County in the coming years. The current land-use pattern is horrible: low-density sprawl, which is both unsightly and unsustainable. This will mean saying "no" to powerful and influential real estate and developer interests, and saying "yes" to a vision of a greener, more compact, more sustainable Clark County.

Comments on Strategy # 2: *Cluster and transfer development rights*

- Strategy # 2 is not as desirable as creating a solid Agricultural trust alliance which provides a much more firm prevention.

Comments on Strategy # 3: *Purchase of development rights programs for key farmlands*

- Purchase of development rights nearly equates to acquisition in fee simple. This proposal would be extremely costly to the citizens.

Comments on Strategy # 4: *Prioritize funding purchase of new development rights*

- A more long-term strategic approach needs to be paired with funding a "purchase of development rights" program. Alone, it runs a risk of being a piecemeal and potentially panic response.
- A "purchase of development rights program" is the only fair way to preserve high value lands for low value uses like agriculture and forestry. The "down zoning" methods tried before in this county were totally unfair and created nothing but ill feelings towards government and pitted neighbors against neighbors.

Comments on Strategy # 5: *Link retiring farmers with current or new farmers*

- A County Farm Link Program is a great idea. A search of local farms at <http://organicvolunteers.com> is great way to see who is already doing this. Joining with schools and providing farm-to-lunchroom programs will also bring this to bear.
- I am very supportive of the County Farm Link Program to keep farms going and passing them down to younger people like myself who wish to farm but don't have a farm in the family that they can take over.
- When partnering retiring farmers with new farmers, include 'traditional' non-chemically dependent methodologies.

Challenge # 3: High production cost and low return for farm products

- Help refine regulations to make the sale of meat, dairy and eggs easier for small-scale farmers.
- We don't need more farm subsidies; they have been abused over the decades.
- Will farmers take advantage of these? I don't think it matters if we think they are the greatest idea unless the people they were designed to help will seek out the resources.
- Farm equipment in the County should be exempt from tax (such as the state policy)
- Sustainable farming needs to replace conventional farming practices, which have only resulted in water pollution, soil erosion, wildlife destruction, soil sterilization, aquifer depletion, etc

Comments on Strategy # 1: *Expand tax incentives*

- Incentives that support small farms should be strengthened over those that support large, industrial farms that are mono-cropped and do not take into account biodiversity.
- There should be incentives for organic farming and integrated ecosystem safeguards (erosion control, riparian preservation, on-site biological diversity, etc).
- Tax incentives should go primarily to farmers who produce a diversified mix of products for local markets, not commodity farmers (corn, soy, etc.) who already benefit from excessive federal subsidies.

Comments on Strategy # 2: *Help farmers obtain health insurance*

- Farmers should be treated the same as other citizens that struggle to have health care. Perhaps a group plan option could be arranged as an organization, without subsidy.
- Anyone who farms should automatically be given health coverage. This MUST include small farms and farmers.

Comments on Strategy # 3: *Establish revolving loan fund*

- We must be careful of funding corporate vs. family farms with this, so that we aren't putting local residents into debt or indentured status. Using the loan to buy into a genetically modified organism seed scheme has ruined thousands of US and Canadian farmers. Education about ecologically sound farming practices and a commitment to

practice them should be required for funding, but the interest rate should be as low as loan administration allows.

- A startup fund is good, but where does that leave those of us who struggle to keep going?
- This should only be done if it includes as in kind donations as well: i.e. reduced lease payments or land use fee structure that is affordable for a farmer.

Comments on Strategy # 4: *Cost sharing to help meet environmental requirements*

- This should involve education and support to help farmers learn and apply sustainable agricultural practices, rather than modifying inefficient/outdated modes of agricultural production so they "work" with environmental regulations.
- This should only be implemented if there is money available.

Comments on Strategy # 5: *Explore agricultural cooperatives*

- Co-ops work. There are dozens of examples of successful agricultural co-ops around the world, especially in Europe.
- With shrinking acreage, cooperative efforts are vital. Still, those wanting to farm must assume some risks of their own.
- It would be great for local governments to act as sponsors of such co-ops.
- Make sure that agricultural co-ops have some grounding with urban consumer co-ops and similar elements in the cities, to emphasize keeping product from travelling too far, at least by truck.
- The co-op issue is one of importance on the supply end of the chain, but often disliked by farmers on the delivery end. In other words, large scale buying power can be good, but price setting on crops can be disadvantageous to farmers.

Challenge # 4: Need for more expert advice for local farmers

- Some assistance with control of blackberries and ivy would be very helpful.
- I'm not sure that the farmers need the help. Do they want help?

Comments on Strategy # 1: *Encourage state and national agencies to provide local expertise*

- It is imperative that our agricultural producers have an educated, qualified, and knowledgeable support system at Federal, state, and local levels. Traditionally, farmers have been treated as second-class citizens.
- Encouraging state and national agencies could run in to those agencies or agents dictating what the farmer is supposed to grow or do on their own farm. Should only be voluntary.
- National government's agricultural advice seems often unsound--i.e. mechanization, biocides, scorched-earth, mono-cropping, high energy input, etc. Local farmers, orchardists and ecologists should develop their own strategies and technical assistance

networks that work best for Clark County's people and landscape, in addition to thoughtful advice from university agro ecology programs and state conservationists.

Comments on Strategy # 2: *Establish a "farmbudsperson" to help farmers*

- Ombudsmen don't typically get paid. Perhaps this position should be a contract commissioned income--a formula for payment based on local farm revenue cultivated, as well as positive changes in local sales of local grown produce, etc.
- A "farmbudsperson" would be a great idea also to help troubleshoot problems or issues that come up when farmers are trying to establish ideas out side of the box for farming.
- This person should advocate organic farming over conventional use of pesticides and toxins.

Comments on Strategy # 3: *Establish an endowment to fund research and education*

- It is very daunting for a beginning small farmer to get into the business. They could benefit from more education and a mentoring program.
- WSU should participate in this; it is required by its charter to provide exactly those services. WSU extension does this to some extent, but in many ways is hindered by its own organization and state laws and policy.
- The Extension office has several very fine programs already in place. Fund it to more specifically focus on the needs of Clark County farmers.
- Our extension office lacks the financing to be able to support farmers with livestock production, but local farmers in the area can fill in that void for the time being. Joining efforts here would be greatly valued.
- We have had the place to continue this, at the 78th street research station, just needs to be revamped to secure adequate financing to continue the applicable research.
- Education should include organic farming methods, permaculture, etc in addition to wind and solar power options on farms.
- Farmers should not be required to fund research and educational programs. Can the endowment be self sustaining?" How would farmers pay for this?

Challenge # 5: Need for better marketing and promotion

- Work with other nonprofits or organizations to promote this.
- Before creating a marketing campaign, would suggest you develop an overall strategic plan and then fit the marketing plan into this rather than creating a "stand alone" marketing campaign.
- A website that provides consumers with information about all types of agricultural products in the County should be organized. A one-stop-shop for consumers.
- You might want to include Cowlitz County and Yakima Valley, and make this less exclusive to only this county.

Comments on Strategy # 1: *Create a "Clark County Fresh" logo and campaign*

- Farmers who want to market their products under this logo should meet standards (humane treatment of animals, healthy or organic farming methods, etc.)
- Clark County fresh is good, also one that's for organic farmers who don't go for USDA certification. We acquired our "Certified Naturally Grown" label this year and that's helpful. Also are working on our certification as "Holistically Grown" and should have that within the next few months.
- I'd suggest a 100-mile logo vs. a Clark County one -- that promotes our state and diverse offerings from adjacent counties' bounty. This also expands our strength by supporting each other.
- People are disconnected from their communities, but drawing these connections for people through a logo and a certain amount of outreach will naturally bring support and focus to the farm down the road.
- I really like the idea of branding of local foods, it offers the public a sense of marketing they can latch onto, and be proud of! I believe it will stimulate and generate interest in farms and increase the appreciation of farmers and agriculture and the natural world in general.
- The unawareness of the local population is a threat, and a Clark County Fresh logo would help people distinguish their food sources. This should be the top priority and first thing on the agenda.

Comments on Strategy # 2: *Facilitate permanent sites for farmers' markets*

- Instead of permanent farmers markets, how about advertising getting products at the farm.
- Farmers Markets are not that profitable; they are more a tool to showcase products but not to sell at the market itself.
- It would be useful to have a way to sell at farmers markets without having to actually go there and spend the day selling. Once all costs are factored in (how many hands do prep the day before, gas to and from the market, booth purchase, setup and related costs) very little profit is made.
- The City of Vancouver and Clark County should become vocal in support of the Vancouver Food Co-op, and similar initiatives. Small farmers need local outlets for their goods ... beyond the seasonal Farmers' Market.
- It would be great to have a farmers' market that sold food, not just crafts, closer to North Clark County. Perhaps midweek at a local healthcare provider or school yard.
- The 78th Street site can form a hub for farmers markets as well as demonstration and educational efforts.
- Year-round farmers' market in Olympia is hugely successful. In addition to permanent farmers markets, get county, state agencies, etc, to buy directly from farmers. What if all the school districts bought from local farmers in farm to schools programs? Increase nutrition in schools, reach parents, and promote farms.
- Year-round farmers' markets create a lively sense of community.

- Speaking from the perspective of a "buyer" of the goods local farmers produce, I would LOVE to see regular locations for farmers markets. A local Clark County "branding" is very nice, too. I can and freeze a lot of produce and I spend a lot of energy every year just trying to find the farmers that have the particular produce I'm looking for (I want organic if at all possible). If I KNEW that there were farmers markets and other methods of locating them, it would make my JOB much easier and I think more people would buy local produce, too.
- Another method would be for local farmers to band together and sell their produce to LOCAL STORES so that we could actually buy "Clark County fresh" at the stores we generally frequent, too! How great that would be!"

Comments on Strategy # 3: *Help with independent marketing association*

- Farmers used to belong to grange associations, where they could organize many of these things your group presents today.

Challenge # 6: Regulation

- Apply pressure for immigration reform. We can't operate without reliable labor.
- Commercial uses of farm land must be related to "value add" foodstuffs
- Raise the minimum wage for agricultural workers to match that of other industries. Pay farm workers overtime when working twelve hour days. Give them breaks like in other industries. Treat the hundreds of thousands of people who grow our food with the same respect we give those that cook and serve our food. Create dignified housing for farm workers, especially migrant farm workers. Hostel-like housing options with dorm rooms and community kitchens. Team with local universities' architecture and building departments to design and build such housing. But don't put all these added expenses onto the farmer.
- It might be worthwhile to educate the public about the concept of journeyman itinerant interns versus migrant and seasonal workers. People who know they're going to learn more will be likely to take part in the farm culture, as opposed to the feeling of being exiled to the countryside with no way out.
- I am infuriated when I drive about the county and see all these "local berries" signs, and most are from 75 miles away or more from eastern Oregon! That's not right and our local sheriff and police force should take an active role in demanding to see the licenses of these folks and make sure they have them or they must close up shop (with a fine!).
- Who will pay for all of this?

Comments on Strategy # 1: *Review building and health codes*

- Consumers need to be confident that the meat sent to the butcher is the meat they get back. When people purchase lamb from me, they want hormone-free, pasture raise lamb. We can't always be sure that is what we get back from the butcher.

- The building and health codes certainly serve a purpose, however the bureaucratic, zoning, and licensing system contains many roadblocks that makes it nearly impossible to finance/initiate any sort of "added value" type product development for producers or for individuals wanting to utilize locally produced raw materials to create and added value product.
- Creating code which allows for healthier foods shouldn't mean boiling the nutrients out of them.
- The requirements for a professional kitchen or micro-dairy for the SMALL farmer are cost prohibitive and prevent farmers who are not mono-croppers from being able to do a little of many things, as most of us do.
- Local regulations make farming nearly impossible, and stunt our local food system.
- Reviewing health codes can be a 2 edged sword. By not identifying the risks posed by pesticide, herbicide, genetically modified organisms, the health code should not even be active. Many times further regulation is imposed leading to more red tape, and problems bringing product to market. However, if the health codes actually looked at the dangers presented to the contamination of our food supply by many poisonous, carcinogenic, mutagenetic compounds, I am strongly in favor.

Comments on Strategy # 2: *Increase flexibility for commercial uses related to farming*

- Help make it easier for farmers to have farm stands on their property.
- Commercial uses associated with agricultural use, but still compatible with adjacent land uses.
- As long as soil conservation and ecological integrity issues are soundly addressed, I am generally for this.
- Commercial uses should only be allowed on farm land if they directly support farm uses. Running an excavation or landscaping company from farm land should not be permitted. It would be better to locate farmer's markets and other farm related commercial uses at specific rural commercial nodes rather than on individual farms. Farmer co-ops would be useful. Food production should be preferred over nursery production that produces decorative ornamentals or Christmas trees.

Comments on Strategy # 3: *Align county code with state requirements regarding housing for farm workers*

- Let the state code regulate farm workers.
- Care must be taken to first protect agricultural soils. Any housing should be densely and effectively clustered on poor soil areas to maximize open space.

Challenge # 7: Conflicts related to increasing population

- Some of the best farmland is close to the urban growth boundary. Preserving good level ground with sandy loam and water access should be a priority.
- Re-define "farm" - to include smaller acreages (5 -20).

- Small farms should be able to operate near urban areas. Within urban areas, we need to preserve the right to garden and raise poultry. This may become very important in the near future.
- Putting a house tract next to a howling rooster builds animosity between farmers and suburbanites. Better planning better preserves the disparate and sometimes conflicting needs of each. If there is greater publicity of these uses, my concern is will it come with the education needed so it's likely to gain the greater acceptance needed.
- As we transition toward producing more food locally, we should look at capping growth and in-migration in order to protect our ability to sustain ourselves locally. Continued growth will continue to result in unstable real estate prices, increased property taxes, increased infrastructure costs, increased traffic, congestion, and deteriorating quality of life.
- We should encourage some of the Mc Mansions to plant a garden. Perhaps a program for summer jobs for college kids that does gardening for the community.
- We MUST have a firm urban growth boundary in Clark County that does not expand every year or so. It should be firm, and it must encourage higher-density residential development within the boundary. Zoning codes/laws should be adjusted to facilitate this.

Comments on Strategy # 1: *Revise the right-to-farm ordinance*

- WA State right to farm laws are so weak. Look to Oregon's laws, and we'll take it to congress if we have to.
- People who move to farming areas need to understand farming and urban development do not mix well. The farmers were there first. The neighborhood covenants should explicitly state that farm activities will take precedence over urban niceties. Move to the farm area; live with all of the ambiance of a farm!
- I don't anticipate much more urban sprawl with such a contracting economy we will be experiencing in the next 5 years, but as a long term policy, zoning and taking back farmlands from commercial development is a start.
- When there is a conflict in development of some city/county related activity such as road building, trail building, etc., the farm should take precedence. Soil is a "living" thing - you cannot cover it up with asphalt and expect it to be productive. So, producing farm land should be kept farm land as a priority - you can build a road or parking lot on marginal land - it isn't used (by humans anyway) as a rich biosphere to produce healthy food.

Comments on Strategy # 2: *Establish buffer zones between farms and urban-use land*

- It would be great if the buffer zone could be a mix of accessible green space, community garden/compost areas, low maintenance agricultural crops (orchard?), or intentionally planted areas that would be pleasant for residents to see and provide habitat for agriculturally beneficial fauna like pollinators, insect eating birds, predatory insects, etc.. Look to permaculture for ideas?

- Buffer should be on the urban land side, not at the expense of the existing farmland uses.
- It should be obvious to the neighbors that the adjoining property is agriculture or forestry. If they don't know by visual inspection, I doubt spending taxpayer money is going to clarify the situation
- Yes, establish buffer zones between farms and urban uses. Farm, forest, urban, wetland, farm, park, urban, etc. But at the same time, integrate more farming into the urban areas.
- Buffer zones should be required for any new development that borders a farm.
- Buffer zones might hinder many small homesteads or mini farms. Something as minor as a hedge buffer between a veggie grower and city lot would keep aesthetics pleasing, as well as decrease the amount of pollutions from road travel (etc) from entering the gardens. Thinks small! We need our neighborhood farms!
- Some people like myself would prefer to live next to a farm rather than some other commercial or industrial use buffer. Some may not feel the same. But they could choose to reside in a more central urban area away from farmland.
- We need to also focus on bringing urban and rural communities together. Some other communities have done, know your farmer campaigns, so urban folks know why it is important to support farming and value our community farmers. The buy local campaign also supports reduction of conflicts.