

Whidbey Island Conservation District

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Board Chair: Wendi Hilborn



State Legislative District #10
Congressional District #2

2014 Feature Accomplishment:

Local farmers improve resource management and public connection

RESOURCE CHALLENGE One overarching agricultural goal of Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) is to support and preserve productive local farmland through economic development, which depends on community support. Real and perceived environmental impacts from farming activities can reduce support from the community and drive development of regulations that create additional hurdles for farmers, reducing the likelihood of their long-term success. WICD works with volunteers and farmers to develop outreach programs to bring the community together.



Farm intern at Willowood Farm explains varieties of garlic to a farm tour visitor. Local farms appreciate the end-of-year sales the tour provides.



Janiece Black, North Whidbey CSA farm coordinator, talks with a customer picking up produce, increasing awareness of local farm products available.

locally-grown food within Oak Harbor, the largest community on the island. Plans for the future are to grow the CSA until it becomes self-sustaining.

KEY PARTNERS: Washington State University Extension; Northwest Agriculture Business Center

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS WICD initiated the annual Whidbey Island Farm Tour in 2006 with a mission of educating the public about local working farms. The farms showcase their products as well as highlight measures they take to protect natural resources. For most farms, the tour is the best weekend of the year for meeting new visitors and gaining new customers. With a USDA Rural Development Block Grant, WICD began coordinating a 5-farm collaborative Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) in 2013 to increase awareness of local farms and

Other Accomplishments



WICD works with farmers in the Maxwelton watershed to implement best management practices, allowing continued farming while protecting habitat and water quality.



WICD and local landowners improve water quality in Ebey's Prairie watershed with funding through the National Estuary Program implemented through Department of Ecology.



WICD stormwater project included a green roof and grass-lined bioswale basin to detain and filter stormwater, which eventually flows into Penn Cove.

More Work to Do!

- Work with Maxwelton Valley and Ebey's Prairie farmers and Whidbey landowners on resource management to protect habitat and improve water quality through planning and implementation of appropriate conservation best management practices.
- Assist residential landowners on alternate stormwater management practices to reduce run off into Puget Sound.
- Continue to be the local resource for general, sound conservation information to residents.