

Whidbey Island Conservation District

Karen Bishop, District Manager
1 NE 4th Street PO Box 490 Coupeville, WA 98239
(360) 678-4708 | karen@whidbeycd.org | www.whidbeycd.org
Board Chair: Wendi Hilborn



State Legislative District #10
Congressional District #2

2015 Feature Accomplishment:

Farmers build manure storage facilities to protect water quality



Cattle on the Kramer Farm, with Lone Lake in the background. WICD's conservation plan includes many practices to protect water quality.

Photo: Rob Hallbauer

RESOURCE CHALLENGE The Whidbey Island Conservation District (WICD) assists farmers in operating profitable businesses, while protecting natural resources. WICD uses the farm conservation planning process that encompasses local, state, and federal rules to achieve these goals. The planning process identifies resource concerns and suggests best management practices the landowner can select to protect natural resources, particularly where farms are in close proximity to surface waters and other sensitive natural resources.

PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS

Since 1886, Kramer family members have produced high quality hay and beef along Lone Lake, which drains into Puget Sound at Useless Bay. WICD worked with the owners to produce a farm conservation plan to assist them in managing the farm efficiently while maintaining the high productivity of their hay/pasture fields and protecting natural resources. WICD designed a covered waste storage facility to safely store and compost manure, for eventual application to the fields, improving soil quality and productivity. The owners constructed the facility in 2015 with cost-share assistance from WICD through the State Conservation Commission (SCC) cost-share program.



The newly constructed covered waste storage structure designed by WICD and funded with help from the SCC cost share program. Photo: Rob Hallbauer

KEY PARTNERS: Washington State Conservation Commission; Kramer family

Other Accomplishments



Connor McDanniel planned, designed, and installed a rain garden at the Waldorf School. Connor was honored as WICD's Conservation Student of the Year.

Photo: Rob Hallbauer



In the Ebey's watershed, filter strip practices are implemented to clean field runoff before it enters a tight line system discharging into Puget Sound.



Ruth Richards installed a water conservation system, catching and reusing water on her residential property with design assistance from WICD.

Photo: Rob Hallbauer

More Work to Do!

- In April of 2015, WICD conducted a survey to assess the needs of farmers and equestrian owners. The diverse group of farmers as food producers indicated their top issue is farm profitability. Equestrian owners need help with pasture and manure management. WICD will address these landowner needs in fiscal year 16.
- WICD will expand the Native Plant Palette workshops to include information on native plants as pollinator habitat.