

Pierce County **AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM**

Kevin Phelps, Pierce County Deputy Executive
ICMA Conference Presenter



AGENDA

- Overview of Farming in Pierce County
- Pierce County Agriculture Program
- Innovative Ideas
- What's Next?



Pierce County

- 800,000 + Residents
- 23 cities and towns plus unincorporated communities
- 1,700 square miles from Key Peninsula to Mount Rainier
- Urban, suburban and rural
- 23,028 acres designated as ARL

Pierce County **Farming Overview**

1,478

Farms in Pierce County

\$5.5
million
mixed
vegetables



\$15
million
nursery,
greenhouse,
floriculture,
and sod sold



\$11+
million
aquaculture
value



\$67
million

livestock,
poultry
and their
products

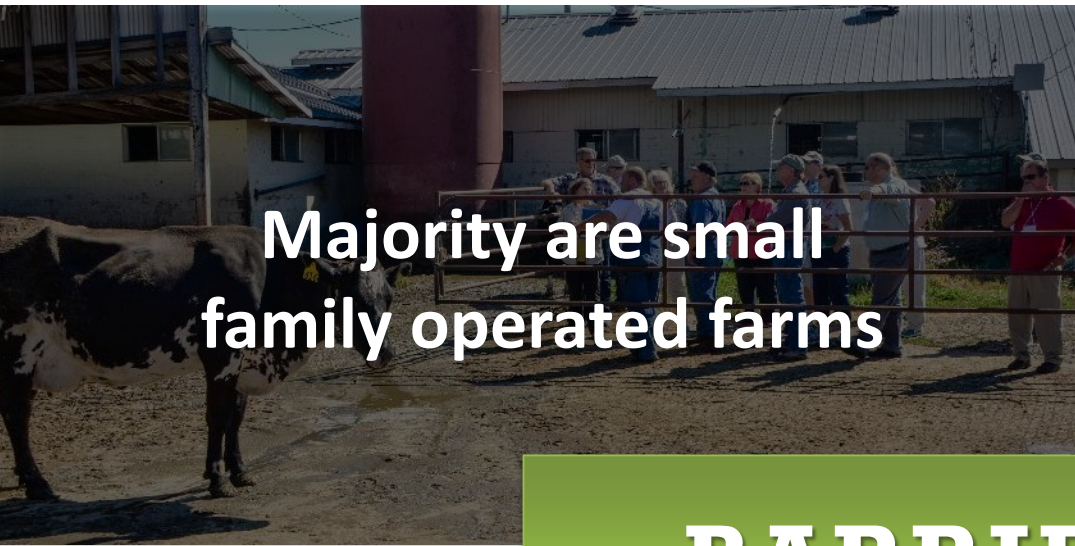


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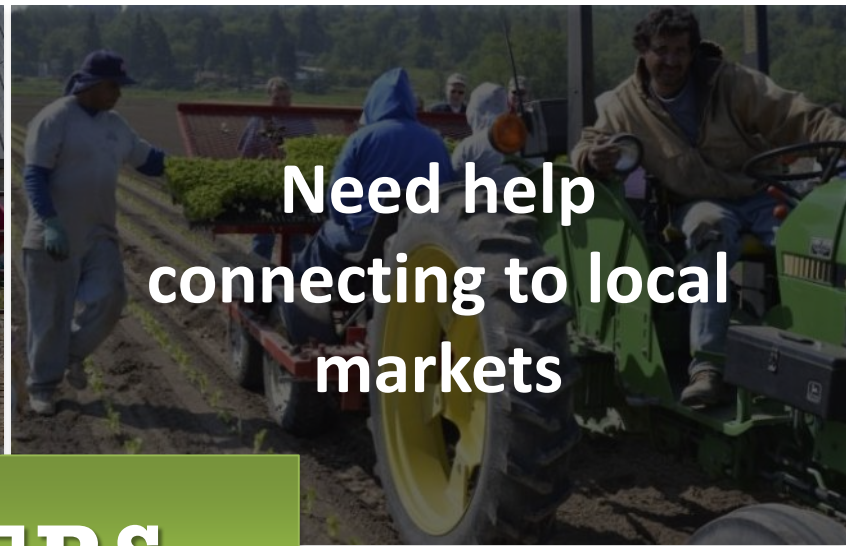
Million worth of products

Total market value of agriculture
production in Pierce County





Majority are small family operated farms



Need help connecting to local markets

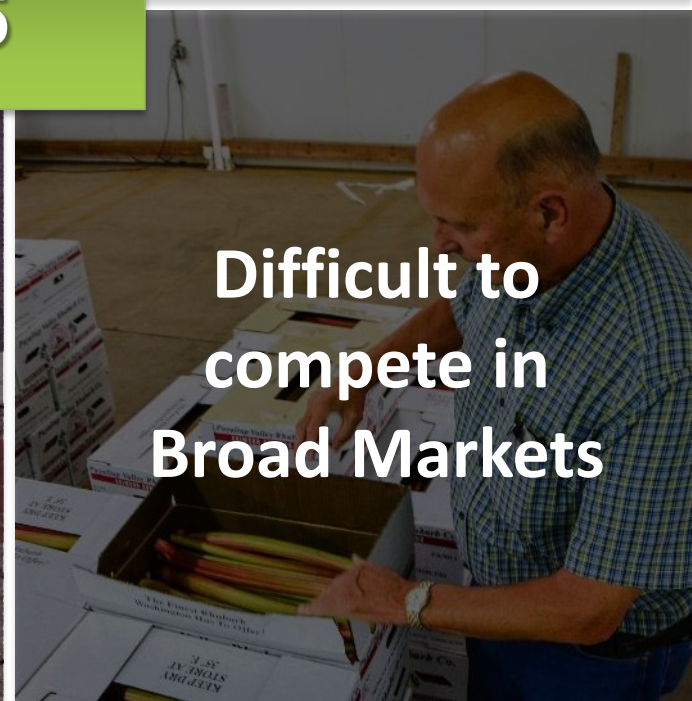
BARRIERS



Need Regulatory Assistance



Farmers Markets Need Support



Difficult to compete in Broad Markets

Pierce County **Agriculture Program**

- Created to Strengthen Farms in Pierce County
- One-Stop-Shop for Farmers
- Build partnerships on local, state and federal levels



Pierce County **Agriculture Program**

INNOVATIVE IDEAS



Pierce County's
FRESH FOOD
PROGRAM



The Fresh Food Program (available at the Annex) is now coming to the **County-City Building, Merit Building and the Tacoma Mall Plaza.**

Fresh Food Program Open Houses

Want to learn more about this sustainable new program?

September 9th: 11:30-12:30pm Tacoma Mall Plaza Conference Room 2nd floor

September 11th: 11:30-1pm CCB 7th floor Rainier Room

First Food Delivery Date September 17th.

Innovative Ideas

Fresh Food Program

- Connects local farmers to new markets (county employees)
- Once a week
- Delivery to 6 of our building locations

Innovative Ideas

Puget Sound Fresh Mobile App



Cascade Harvest Coalition has the **DATA**

Pierce County provides the **TECHNOLOGY**

Innovative Ideas

Meet the Farmer Video Series



Geri Ruiz
OWNER, DOUBLE R FARMS



Tim Richter
EG RICHTER FAMILY FARM



Innovative Ideas

Pierce County Farm Forum



Targeted Presentation Topics



"Speed-Dating"

Permitting

- Streamlined Permitting Process
- Simplified the Transfer of Development Rights Process

Pierce County's Farming website is a one-stop resource for farmers.
www.piercecountywa.org/farming



Innovative Ideas

Conservation

New owners, Sidhu Farms acquired 70 acres of Matlock Farm's 153 acres



In 2015, Pierce County & Forterra brokered the largest farmland conservation (153 acres) in Pierce County history

What's Next

- Farm Forum Workshop Series
- Infrastructure Needs Assessment



Questions/Comments?

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2015 SEPT 27-30
seattle
ICMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE KING COUNTY

