



Who are Whatcom Family Farmers

WHATCOM
Family Farmers

Whatcom Family Farmers is the new, unified voice of Whatcom County's family farmers.

Farmers have come together for one simple reason: to preserve a future for family farming in our community.

How did Family Farmers come about?

The Ag Water Board, representing the Watershed Improvement Districts, invited the Whatcom County Dairy Federation to join in a united effort to confront the challenges facing all farmers.

Who runs Family Farmers?

Farmers, through the board of directors. Five members are appointed by the Ag Water Board and five by the Dairy Federation. The eleventh is appointed by the board. A requirement is that each board member must be an active farmer with the primary income coming from farming. Two non-voting board members can be non-farmers.

There are three staff: Gerald Baron for communications who also serves as Executive Director. Fred Likkel for water quality and dairy related issues. And Henry Bierlink for water access, non-dairy issues and project coordination.

Farmer and supporter involvement

Preserving the future of family farming is up to all of us. We are setting up committees to share the work and inviting farmers, farm families and farm supporters to join us. Want to help? Call Rich Appel, Chair of Media & Communications committee (360) 384-9044 or sign up on our website.

and why are we here?

We're here to fight for the future of family farming.

Threats to the future of farming are coming from many directions: lawyers, activists, media, government officials and more. To counter these threats we need:

- to not allow lies, false accusations and misinformation to stand
- to better educate and inform the public and government officials who make the decisions that affect our future
- to build active community support because farmers alone cannot protect a future that matters to all of us.

What are you working on right now?

Our current priorities:

Potential lawsuits—Oregon-based lawyers are claiming that farmers are “killing America.” They are falsely accusing dairies of water pollution and seeking local clients to help put our dairy farmers out of business.

New dairy regulations—massive new regulations proposed by the Dept of Ecology will put as many as 50% of our dairies out of business. We're fighting hard.

Water access—water codes and water rights are a mess and our State needs encouragement to help counter pressure against farmers, provide water for farming and fish, and resolve these long-standing issues.

Help preserve the future of family farming.
Join us. www.whatcomfamilyfarmers.org

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