

SAN JUAN ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

2024 Summary Report



The 12th annual San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit was held on March 8 and 9, 2024 on Orcas Island. Venues included on-farm workshops, Oddfellows Hall and a full day at Camp Orkila.

The Ag Summit is a valued annual event that provides a unique opportunity for the food and agricultural community from across the islands, and beyond, to gather.

Designed as a space for inspiration, education, and camaraderie, the Ag Summit rotates islands and features keynotes, hands-on workshops, presentations by farmers and regional specialists, panel discussions, meals, and social events.

With the theme "It's All About the Carbon," the 2024 Summit delved into the interplay between soil health, fertility, land stewardship, and climate resilience, focusing on the pivotal role of carbon. By centering discussions around this essential element, participants extensively explored carbon's profound influence on agriculture and its contribution to supporting ecological services crucial for sustainable farming.



View the full Summit program at:
<https://bit.ly/4dAh61B>

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

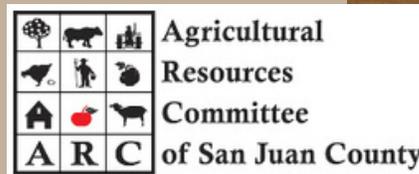
Let us take a moment to recognize and honor all peoples who have ancestral ties to these lands and waters and who have contributed their labor, experience, and knowledge to nourishing communities since time immemorial. Through the Summit we are continuing to educate ourselves and our community about the historic and current ties of Indigenous communities to stewardship of the San Juan Islands and the surrounding waters.

Throughout the Summit, and in our work and efforts throughout the year, we commit to:

- *Fostering relationships and respect.*
- *Respecting Coast Salish identity, culture, connection to these lands and waters, and Usual & Accustomed treaty rights.*
- *Recognition of trauma and what removal from land truly means.*
- *Deepening our understanding of our actions and their impacts, including the real impact of agriculture on Indigenous people in the area, and that land management decisions affect health outcomes of Indigenous people on an individual basis.*
- *Upholding our responsibility to steward the land in a reciprocal and responsible way.*
- *Uplifting and supporting Indigenous stewardship practices, knowledge systems, and adaptive management strategies.*
- *Building connections across cultures and finding ways to facilitate dialogue, bring in voices that have been silenced, marginalized and excluded, and share learning opportunities that bring communities together.*

With humility, we offer this acknowledgment as a stepping stone to deeper understanding, as our community builds connections across cultures and uncovers what it means to inhabit these lands and waters together.

PARTNERS



Steering Committee Members: Rebecca Moore, Caitie Blethen, Kristen Arnim, Faith Van De Putte, Kathy Morris, Jaime Beechum, Pauline Chiquet, Caitlin Leck, Steph Coffey, Kellen Moody

2024 SUMMIT OVERVIEW

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

FILM SCREENING AND COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Participants gathered at the Seaview Theater for screening and discussion with Children of the Setting Sun Productions of Lummi Nation and Spirit Farm of Navajo Nation



FRIDAY, MARCH 8

SUMMIT HUB AND TRADE SHOW

A central gathering place in the Orkila dining hall, for attendees to check out trade show tables, grab a drink or snack, and catch up

WORKSHOPS AROUND THE ISLAND

Eight workshops offered throughout the day at Camp Orkila and around Orcas Island

GERMINATING IDEAS- LIGHTNING TALKS

Short talks facilitated by Liz Carlisle on topics related to carbon, climate, and regenerative agriculture in San Juan County- a free event open to the public

DINNER CELEBRATION

A delectable dinner, sourced locally by The Kitchen, accompanied by beverages from Island Hoppin' Brewery and Girl Meets Dirt



SATURDAY, MARCH 9

SUMMIT CONFERENCE DAY

Summit attendees convened at the picturesque Camp Orkila for the main Summit Conference Day. The proceedings commenced with a land acknowledgment by Caitlin Leck and territorial welcome from 'Rosie Cayou, followed by a keynote titled "Climate Solutions in Agriculture: Building a Collective Movement Through Diverse Strategies," delivered by author and agroecologist Liz Carlisle.

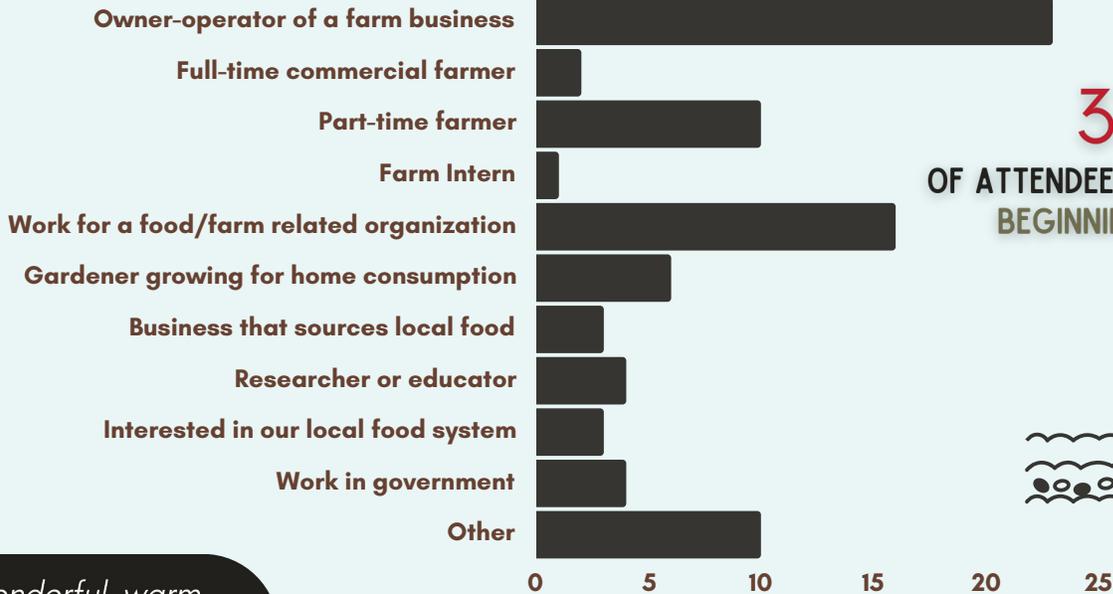
Participants selected from 12 breakout sessions held concurrently across three time slots, with opportunities for networking during breakfast and lunch breaks. Additionally, a Forest School childcare option was made available for attendees and the Orcas 4-H Club hosted a bake sale.



PARTICIPATION & EXPERIENCE

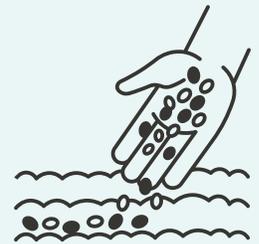
228 UNIQUE REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2024 AG SUMMIT

ATTENDEES



37%

OF ATTENDEES WHO FARM ARE BEGINNING FARMERS

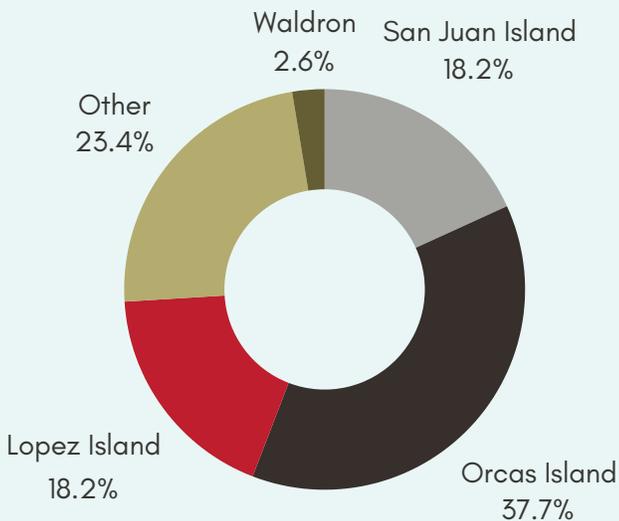


"A wonderful, warm gathering. I enjoyed seeing lots of familiar faces and lots of new ones too."

46% ATTENDED THE SUMMIT FOR THE FIRST TIME



ATTENDANCE BY LOCATION



26 SCHOLARSHIPS WERE AWARDED FOR SUMMIT ATTENDANCE

18 SCHOLARSHIPS WENT TO BEGINNING FARMERS

"Thank you for making it possible for me to attend. I learned so much about how I can continue to enrich our islands' agriculture community."

98% OF SURVEY RESPONDERS RATED THEIR OVERALL SUMMIT EXPERIENCE AS 'EXCELLENT' OR "GOOD"

2 DAYS FILLED WITH 8 WORKSHOPS & 12 SESSIONS, PRESENTED BY OVER 50 SPEAKERS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO NETWORK AND SOCIALIZE



4.7

Average rating on Friday Workshop quality, on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (excellent).

21 organizations tabled at the Friday & Saturday Tradeshow

"Excellent Summit! Thank you. It is so helpful and encouraging to get together with the farming community."



133 people attended the Lightning Talks and Summit Celebration Dinner at Oddfellows Hall Friday evening.

TOP-RATED SATURDAY SESSIONS



Based on participant feedback, ideas for **future Ag Summit topics** include: Livestock care & vet skills; Farmer owned co-ops; Disease and pest management; No-till strategies; Soil health; Grant writing; Traditional Foodways; More indigenous led talks; Climate change planning and remediation; Berry management; Seed saving; Greenhouse management; Irrigation system planning; Crop variety selection; Native plant nursery production; Growing animal feed; Permaculture; Equipment & tools showcase; Marketing; Farm coaching; Agroforestry; Labor management; Volunteers on the farm; Food security; Mushroom cultivation; On-farm research; Cover cropping; Farm admin; Food processing and storage; Increasing local food consumption; Infrastructure; Hands-on, skills-based learning; Structured networking events

IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

ON AVERAGE, **85%** OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAID ATTENDING SUMMIT EVENTS HELPED THEM TO DEVELOP A NETWORK OF PEERS TO CALL ON FOR SUPPORT

"I've gleaned a lot from my involvement with the Ag Summit over the years. It's one of my favorite events and I am always glad I attended. I hope to see you all again next year!"



"As a food systems professional working at a statewide capacity, the sessions I was a part of were so informative to my realm of understanding, both of the distinct challenges faced by island producers, as well as wonderful strengths demonstrated by this close knit community. I take with me a deeper understanding of coastal tribal cultures, food insecurity barriers and opportunities, and developing projects to mitigate climate change."

88% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAID ATTENDING SUMMIT EVENTS HELPED THEM DEVELOP SKILLS TO START OR ENHANCE THEIR FARM BUSINESS

"Thank you! The tour on Lum Farm was such a great experience! The absolute highlight of my summit experience for sure! Learned so much!"

I've gone to a vast majority of the SJI Ag Summits, and the Traditional Foodways films, workshop and sessions are the most impactful and transformative of any I've attended.

CHANGES

Based on the 2024 Ag Summit,

76%

of those surveyed said they will make changes in the way they farm/garden.

Based on past Ag Summits,

52%

of those surveyed said they made changes in the way they farm/garden.

THANK YOU 2024 SUMMIT SPONSORS!

SUSTAINING



FARM CHAMPION



FARMER



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ANONYMOUS DONORS

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SUMMIT!

