

SAN JUAN ISLANDS

AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

2025 Summary Report



The 13th annual San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit was held on February 28th and March 1st on Lopez Island. Venues included on-farm workshops, Lopez Community Center, and a full day at the Lopez Island School.

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 "Setting the Table for an Abundant Future," and guided by the new San Juan County Food System Plan, the 2025 Summit focused on strengthening local food resilience. Through workshops and discussions, participants explored ways to scale production, support ecosystems, and build thriving communities—while centering respect for the Coast Salish Peoples and right-relationship with the land.

View the full Summit program by scanning this code:



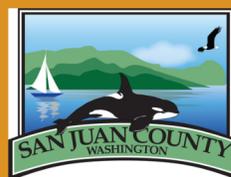
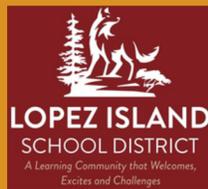
LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Let us devote time to recognize and honor all peoples and Sovereign Nations 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, as well as our shared history and how to reconcile it. 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 land 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, adaptive management strategies and decision making authority
- Building connections across cultures and finding ways to facilitate dialogue and action, to fulfill our responsibility to all the life that supports us.

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, Kristen Arnim, Faith Van De Putte, Sara Jones, Jaime Beechum, Pauline Chiquet, Caitlin Leck, Lauren Bigelow, Peggy Bill, Breton Carter, Kellen Moody

2025 SUMMIT OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

SUMMIT HUB AND TRADE SHOW

A central gathering place at the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts, for attendees to check out trade show tables, have a landing place, and catch up throughout the day. We also gathered during lunch and enjoyed some delicious pozole.

WORKSHOPS AROUND THE ISLAND

Eight workshops offered throughout the day across Lopez Island on topics ranging from basic tractor maintenance to nursery production. This year, there was also a volunteer work party at the Lopez School Garden.

SMALL PLATES, BIG TABLE COMMUNITY SOCIAL

In the evening, we hosted a community-wide social gathering at the Lopez Center for Community and the Arts. Small bites were available from several Lopez-based food vendors including Setsunai, Ursa Minor, Holly B's Bakery, Island Grazing Table, and more! We also heard from our keynote speaker, Reginaldo Hasslet-Marroquin about his recent book, *In the Shadow of Green Man*.



SATURDAY, MARCH 9

SUMMIT CONFERENCE DAY

Summit attendees convened at Lopez School 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 "Regenerative Living: A Call to Embrace the Abundance Among Us," delivered by author and CEO of [Tree-Range Farms](https://www.treerangefarms.com) (treerangefarms.com), Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin.

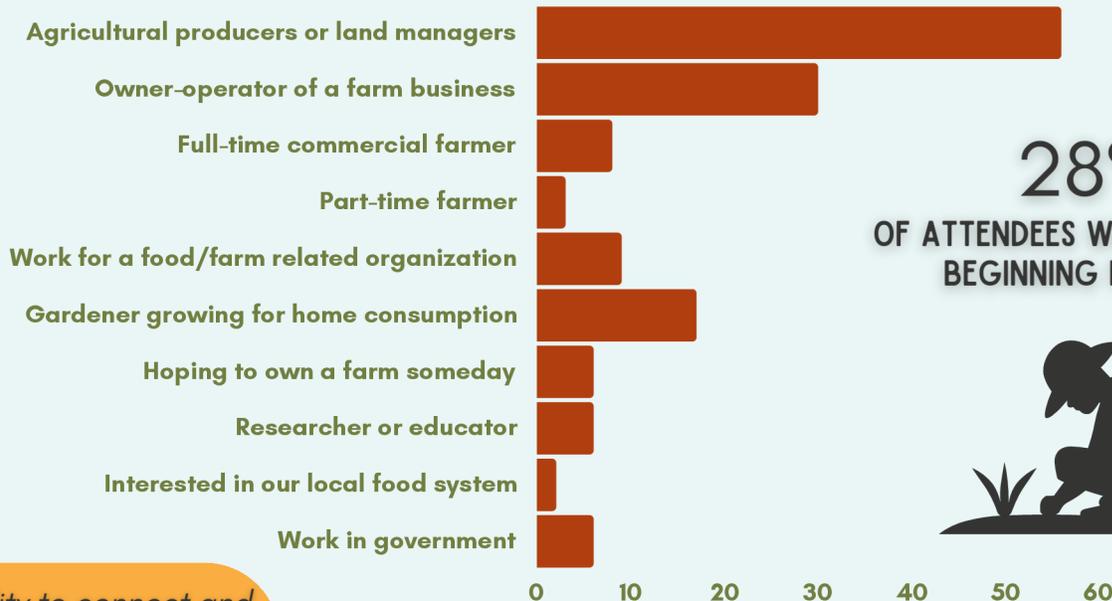
Participants selected from 12 breakout sessions held concurrently across three time slots, with opportunities for networking during breakfast and lunch breaks. Additionally, we hosted our first ever dedicated youth program in partnership with San Juan County 4-H.



PARTICIPATION & EXPERIENCE

228 UNIQUE REGISTRATIONS FOR THE 2024 AG SUMMIT

ATTENDEES



28%
OF ATTENDEES WHO FARM ARE
BEGINNING FARMERS

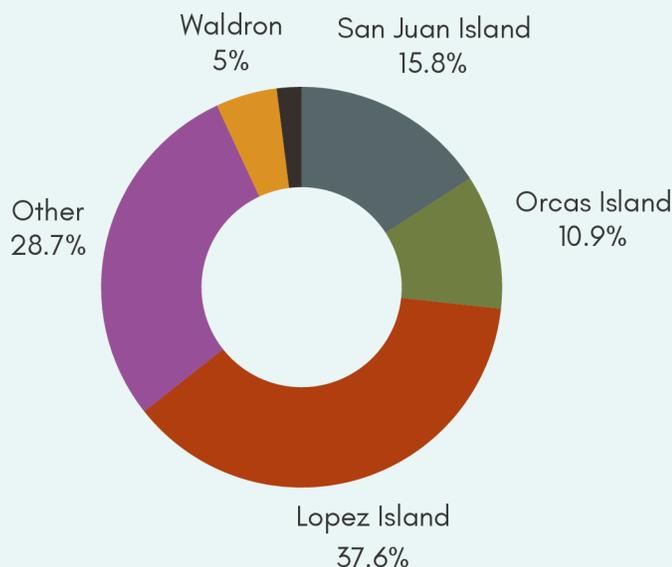


"The ability to connect and share is so powerful and vital!"

31% ATTENDED THE SUMMIT FOR THE FIRST TIME



ATTENDANCE BY LOCATION



15 SCHOLARSHIPS WERE
AWARDED FOR SUMMIT
ATTENDANCE

12 SCHOLARSHIPS WENT TO
BEGINNING FARMERS

"I walked away from this year's Summit feeling inspired, connected, and excited to implement some of the many ideas that bubbled up over the two days of events."

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

2 DAYS FILLED WITH 8 WORKSHOPS & 12 SESSIONS, PRESENTED BY OVER 40 SPEAKERS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO NETWORK AND SOCIALIZE



4.8

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

10 organizations tabled at the Friday & Saturday Tradeshow

"Thanks so much for the summit. It was deeply informative and very well put together. I appreciate you all so much."

143 people attended the Small Plates, Big Table Community Gathering at The Lopez Center for Community and the Arts on Friday evening.

TOP-RATED SATURDAY SESSIONS



Based on participant feedback, ideas for **future Ag Summit topics** include: Mushroom growing for market; Commercial Seed Production; Locally adapted seed and plant availability; More on livestock care and vet skills; Intercropping; Alternative grain production (buckwheat etc.); Marketing and business information; Updates on shared land access projects on various islands; Seed saving; Housing for farmers; More forestry sessions including ways to protect against wildfire; A deep dive into the County Food Plan; Climate adapted trees and plants; Farm coaching; Agroforestry; Labor management; Co-operative development- including Ag producer and marketing co-ops, food processing co-ops, etc.

IMPACTS & OUTCOMES

ON AVERAGE, 82% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAID ATTENDING SUMMIT EVENTS HELPED THEM TO DEVELOP A NETWORK OF PEERS TO CALL ON FOR SUPPORT

"For me, the Ag Summit's greatest benefit has always been connecting with farmers and experts from across the county.



"The keynote speaker, Reginaldo, was so positive and inclusive in his vision for the future, it was contagious. During these uncertain times, it was enormously valuable to share this time together with others in the islands who are dealing with similar challenges and working toward similar goals. I really appreciate all the effort involved with putting this annual event together. Much gratitude to the organizers and everyone who attended!"

86% OF SURVEY RESPONDENTS SAID ATTENDING SUMMIT EVENTS HELPED THEM DEVELOP SKILLS TO START OR ENHANCE THEIR FARM BUSINESS

CHANGES

Based on the 2025 Ag Summit,

65%

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

Based on past Ag Summits,

44%

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

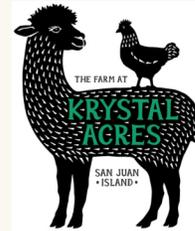


THANK YOU 2025 SUMMIT SPONSORS!

FARM CHAMPION



FARM SUSTAINER



HELLER FAMILY

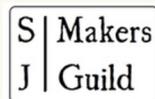
FARM SUPPORTER



INEZ BLACK



FRIEND OF FARMS



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ANONYMOUS DONORS

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT SUMMIT!

