



San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit Report

The San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit is a valued annual event and provides a unique opportunity for the food and agricultural community from across the islands, and beyond to gather. Inspired by community input in 2022, the Summit provided offerings on a range of topics including in both a virtual and in-person format on Lopez Island.

Friday, March 4th was an all-virtual day. We kicked off with Dr. Brook Brouwer giving a welcome address and taking us through the Summit's journey over the last ten years. We then broke out into two concurrent morning virtual sessions, had a break for lunch, held two concurrent afternoon virtual sessions, followed by a community roundtable discussion and then a wonderful keynote address by [Rowen White](#).

Saturday, March 5th was our in-person workshop day on Lopez Island. We had three concurrent morning workshops at various locations, a break for boxed lunch sourced with local ingredients by chef John at the Lopez Island School, followed by three concurrent afternoon workshops. We wrapped up this year's Summit with an evening social gathering hosted by Midnight's Farm with food by El Taco Bout It, libations by Lopez Island Brewing and music by Derek Eisel and Pablo Paz.

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I. People

Steering Committee

The purpose of the Ag Summit Steering Committee is to provide ideas and expertise as it relates to Summit content, speakers, workshops and agenda; promote the Summit within entities and networks, participate in and help optimize the value and experience of the Summit for participants. For 2022, the Steering Committee commenced fortnightly meetings in late October and held their last meeting (Summit debrief) March 14th.

2022 Steering Committee Members

Brook Brouwer, *WSU San Juan County Extension, Director*

Sandy Bishop, *Lopez Community Land Trust, Executive Director*

Matt Claussen, *San Juan Islands Conservation District, Natural Resource Planner*

Steph Coffey, *San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, Director*

Bruce Gregory, *San Juan Islands Conservation District, Senior Planner*

Sara Jones, *Jones Family Farm, and Lopez Island School District*

Caitlin Leck, *Food Systems Team, Coordinator*

Faith Van De Putte, *Ag Resource Committee, Coordinator*

2022 Staff

Staff included internal WSU staff, as well as two support staff were brought on to help support this year's Summit efforts.

Kelsey Green, *WSU San Juan County Extension, Summit Lead*

Kristen Arnim, *WSU San Juan County Extension, Summit Support*

Liang Bao, *WSU San Juan County Extension, Office Manager*



Planning Team!

Dr. Brook Brouwer, Kelsey Green, Liang Bao and Kristen Arnim (w/ helper Juniper)

Partner Organizations:

The Ag Summit has long worked with community partners and continues to form strong collaborations for the Summit.

2022 Partner Organizations:

WSU San Juan County Extension Office
San Juan County Agricultural Resources Committee
Lopez Community Land Trust
Lopez Island School District & LIFE Garden Program
San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild
San Juan Islands Conservation District
San Juan County

II. Sponsors

The Summit is made possible every year through generous sponsorships. This year, sponsors included:

- Orcas Food Co-op
- San Juan County Conservation Land Bank
- The San Juan Preservation Trust
- Stonecrest Farm & Graziers
- Girl Meets Dirt
- T&D Farms
- Jones Family Farms
- Natural Plant Solutions
- Islander's Insurance
- Watmough Bay Farm
- Midnight's Farm
- San Juan Food System Housing Survey
- The Shephard Family
- Lopez Island Brewing
- San Juan Maker's Guild
- The Lopez Locavores
- Many Anonymous Donors



2022 Summit Sponsors

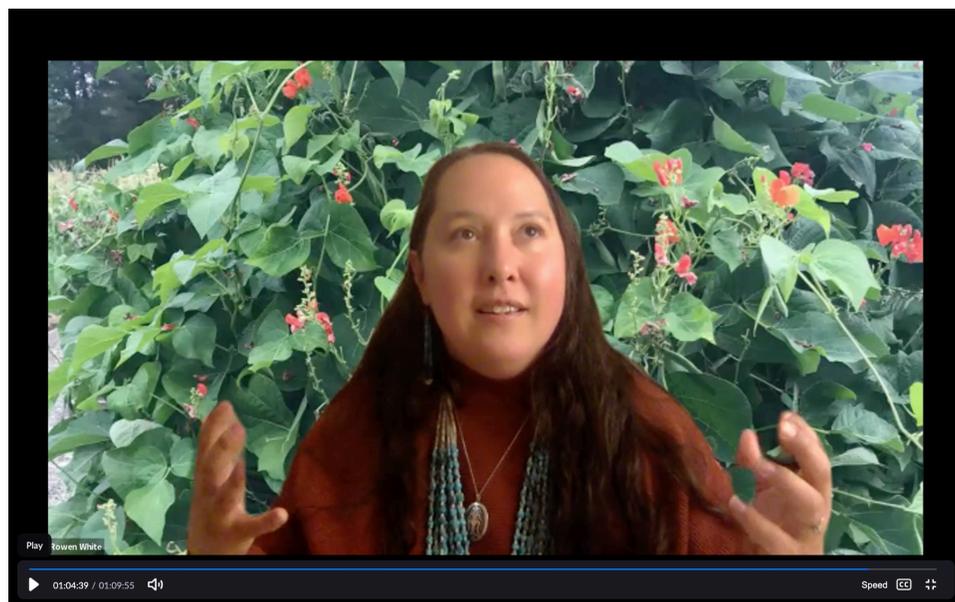
III. Structure

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, indoor gatherings were subject to WSU covid protocols. The steering committee chose to limit in-person indoor gatherings in 2022 and not hold any indoor sessions or workshops as well as offering one full day of virtual programming over the Zoom platform for maximum flexibility for attendees who were at various levels of comfort with gatherings.

The traditional model of longer in-person workshops on Friday and shorter sessions on Saturday was flipped such that shorter in-person sessions were held virtually on Friday, and longer in-person workshops were held on Saturday to allow for travel.

Registration was fully online this year. Lunch and an in-person workshop was hosted out of Lopez Island School. This did not serve as the traditional 'hub' which is typically featured at Summits, but a table was set up as a resource available for questions and information.

Friday, March 4th: Fully virtual, including shorter sessions (what would have typically taken place during Saturday's conference day of the traditional model), keynote and a community roundtable.



Keynote Speaker Rowen White, Virtual

Saturday, March 5th: Fully in-person workshops on Lopez Island, almost exclusively outdoors, boxed lunch with outdoor seating, an outdoor kids song and story hour, and an evening social at Midnight's Farm.



Traditional Foodways Workshop



Vet Skills Workshop

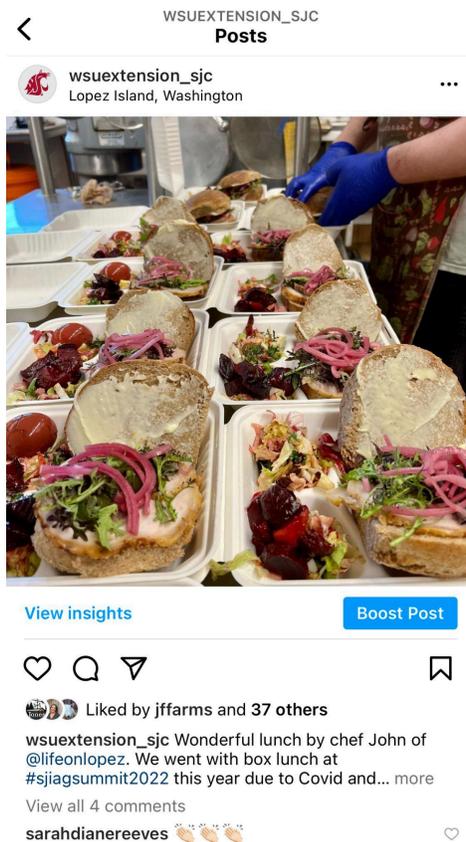
IV. Schedule

Summit Overview Schedule and Full Descriptions of Sessions & Workshops found at end of document in Appendix A & B

V. Marketing

The 2022 Summit communications and marketing plan relied on a multi-thronged approach with included social media (both Instagram and Facebook/ Facebook interest groups), press releases to online and traditional media outlets, community calendar postings, a Mailchimp and a WSU listserv, personal email correspondences, and word of mouth from steering committee and community partners.

The most popular post of the Summit was a post of the box lunch preparation by Chef John:



VI. Scholarships

Full scholarships were offered to those who could not afford to attend the Summit, as we did not want cost to be a barrier to attending. Interested parties completed a simple form. There were **seventeen** full scholarships granted in 2022.

VII. Summit Ratings

Friday Virtual Sessions

	# of Attendees	Ratings
Virtual Welcome Address	54	
Farm Infrastructure	48	
Food Hubs	39	
Alternative models to Farmland Access	37	
Carbon Farming	???	
Community Roundtable	49	
Keynote	60	

Saturday In-Person Workshops

	# of Attendees	Ratings
Commercial Orcharding	21	
Traditional Foodways	33	
On-Farm Composting	25	
Local Value-Added	15	
On-Farm Vet Skills	17	
Water Storage and Irrigation	25	
Lunch	68	
Kid's Song & Story Hour	11	

Selected Comments:

Q13: If applicable, please give examples of changes you have made:

"Too many to list them all. The ag summit is a VERY important place to learn new skills, get new ideas and meet other farmers."

"With a better understanding of BOPOC ag issues and alternatives, we are open to more potential opportunities that may not have been on our radar."

“Education in soil science has led me to till more conservatively and cover crop more, use more compost and be more thoughtful about amendments. Education on traditional indigenous food/cultural practices tasked me to reconsider and reevaluate many presumptions of local white agriculture. And networking with local and regional food system workers at the Ag Summits has opened many doors.”

VIII. Demographics

Attendees self-selected Q: What BEST describes how you currently engage with food and farming?

Owner-operator of a farm business	28.8%
Full-time commercial farmer	5.8%
Part-time farmer	7.7%
Farm Intern	0%
Employee or volunteer for a food/farm related organization	28.9%
Gardener growing for home consumption	7.7%
Hoping to own farm someday	1.9%
Value-added processor	0%
A business that sources local foods	1.9%
Researcher or educator	5.8%
Care about our food system and want to know more	1.9%
Work in Government	1.9%
Other	7.8%

IX. Summit Impact Over Time

	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Classroom Session Registration			160	132	137	105	-
Workshop Registration			142	96	87	61	-

Overall Summit Rating (1-5)			4.7	4.5	4.5	4.5	4.5
Percentage of attendees who are farmers			45%	54%	67%	31%	63%
Indicated they will make changes to their business based on information from past Summits	80%		73%	74%	80%	75%	70%
Percentage indicated they had made changes based on information from past Summits	76%		74%	83%	-	-	-

X. 2022 Successes

- In response to the covid-19 pandemic, the team successfully pivoted to a hybrid format and reduced in-person indoor gatherings while continuing to hold value and opportunities for connection for attendees.
- Shifted registration to fully online to minimize gathering for registration.
- Offered mostly local Lopez Island-sourced products in the box lunch.
- ??? people made changes to ???
- \$\$ in sponsorships?
- What else

XI. Closing and Ag Summit 2023

2023 will be the 11th annual San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit and, if following the traditional rotation, will be held on San Juan Island in February or March. While it is yet to be determined, there was a strong indication that a hybrid approach (one day virtual and one day in-person) was appreciated. This will be considered for the 2023 event.



Evening Summit Social at Midnight's Farm