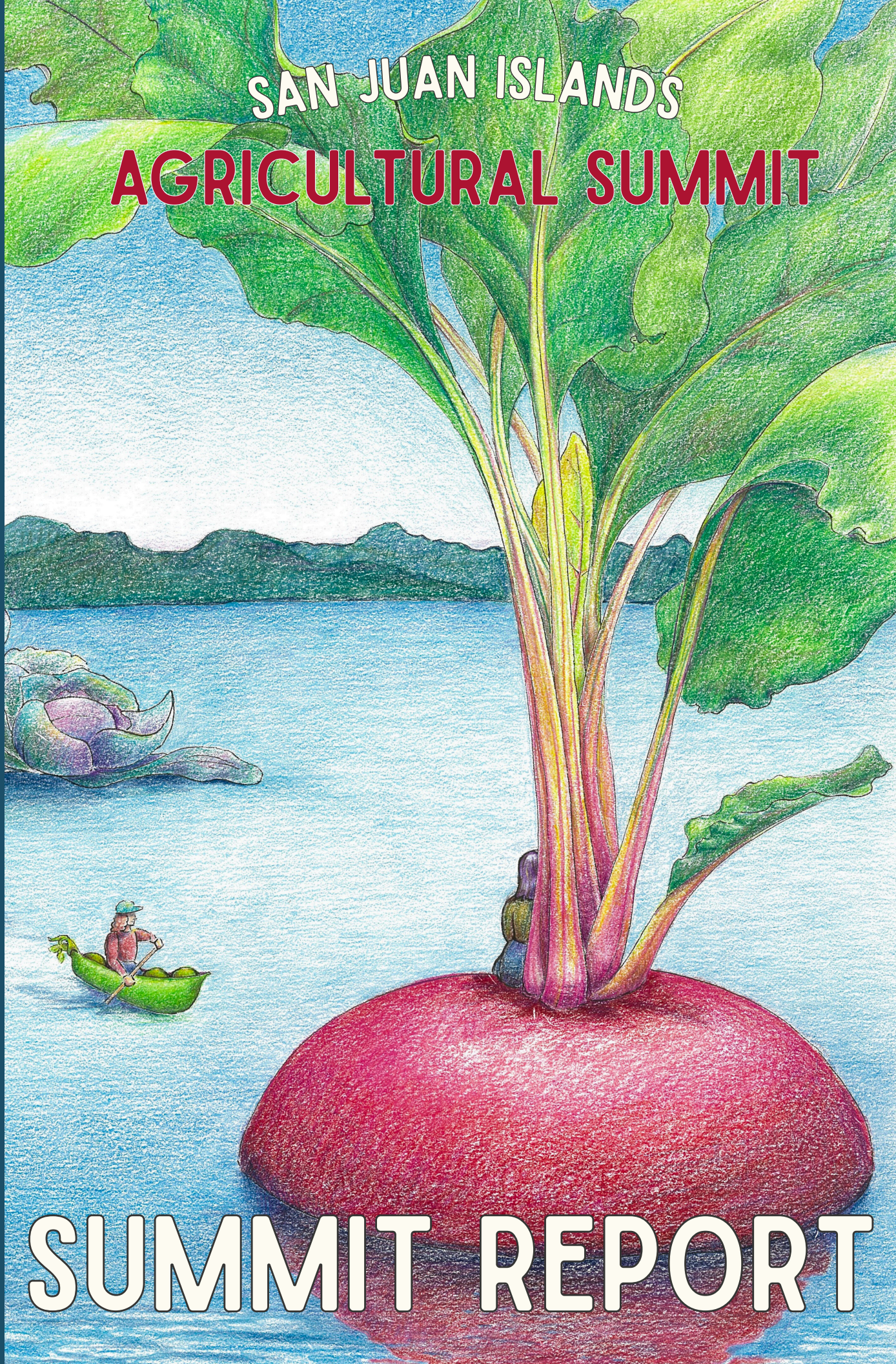


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SAN JUAN ISLANDS
AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT



SUMMIT REPORT

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.

SAN JUAN ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT

GROWING RESILIENCE

The 14th annual San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit was held on February 27 and 28, 2026 on San Juan Island. Venues included on-farm workshops, the SJI Grange, Brickworks, and conference sessions and keynote Friday Harbor High School.

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

Designed as a space for inspiration, education, and camaraderie, the Ag Summit rotates islands and features a keynote speaker, hands-on workshops, conference sessions, presentations, meals, and social events.



With the theme “Growing Resilience,” we explored how communities adapt to climate, land, and economic challenges, with a focus on strengthening our capacity to thrive together. By centering discussions around resilience in action, participants examined innovation, collaboration, and stewardship as essential forces in sustaining agriculture and the ecosystems that support island life.

PARTNERS



WSU EXTENSION
San Juan County



Agricultural
Resources
Committee
of San Juan County



2026 SAN JUAN ISLANDS AGRICULTURAL SUMMIT STEERING COMMITTEE & STAFF

Lauren Bigelow, Caitie Blethen, Pauline Chiquet, Clinton Gauthier, Lucy Graves, Sara Jones, Rebecca Moore, Nicole Santora, Faith Van De Putte



2026 SUMMIT OVERVIEW

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

SUMMIT HUB

A central gathering place at the Grange

WORKSHOPS AROUND THE ISLAND

Eight workshops offered throughout the day at all over San Juan Island.

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

A delicious spread was lovingly prepared by Jane Burton Bell and Suzie W, sourced locally, accompanied by beverages from San Juan Brewery and Girl Meets Dirt

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28

CONFERENCE DAY

Summit attendees convened at the Friday Harbor High School for the main Summit Conference Day. The proceedings commenced with a land acknowledgment by Rebecca Moore and territorial welcome from the Coast Salish Youth Coalition followed by an encouraging address by Anne Schwartz and the keynote titled "Grow Your Own Fertilizer to Build Soil and Habitat, Plant Health, and Farm Resilience" delivered by author and farmer Helen Atthowe.

Participants selected from 12 breakout sessions held concurrently across three time slots, with opportunities for networking during breakfast and lunch breaks. Additionally, an engaging Youth Track took place concurrently with 4-H and WSU Master Gardeners.



2 DAYS

8 WORKSHOPS

12 SESSIONS

39 SPEAKERS

PARTICIPATION & EXPERIENCE

14

ORGANIZATIONS AT THE TRADESHOW

WSU San Juan Extension

SJI Grange

USDA-NRCS

San Juan Islands Conservation District

WSDA Regional Markets Program

San Juan Islands Food Hub

San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild

Lopez Food Center

San Juan County Conservation Land Bank

San Juan County 4-H

USDA Farm Service Agency

SJC Agricultural Resources Committee

SJC Food System Team

SJC Noxious Weeds

Eat Local First/Sustainable Connections

“

I find the connections to people from wider organizations such as NRCS, WSDA and other entities to be incredible helpful. These connections help to give direction and real help with various farming questions and problems.

”

24 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FOR SUMMIT ATTENDANCE

18 SCHOLARSHIPS WENT TO BEGINNING FARMERS

WORKSHOP & SESSION TOPICS

- Agrisolar
- Balancing Soil Health
- Buckwheat Breeding
- Deep Observation
- Direct Marketing
- Dry Farming in the PNW
- effective farm systems
- Food Sovereignty & Thriving Indigenous Plant Communities
- Food System Plan for SJC
- Growing Fiber
- Island Allies of Indigenous Lifeways
- Leadership & Change Making
- Livestock & Pasture Management
- Livestock Vet Care & Handling
- Plant Pathology
- Reducing Plastic Waste
- Virtual Fencing



“ I LOOK FORWARD TO LEARNING AND CONNECTING WITH FRIENDS AND PEERS EVERY YEAR AT THE SUMMIT. ”

The 2026 Summit also highlighted the United Nations' designation of 2026 as the **Year of the Woman Farmer**, recognizing the vital role women play in agriculture worldwide. Throughout the program, inspiring women farmers, educators, and leaders reflected resilience, creativity, and deep commitment to land and community. A growing Youth Track further emphasized the future of island agriculture through hands-on learning, curiosity, and connection.

98%

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

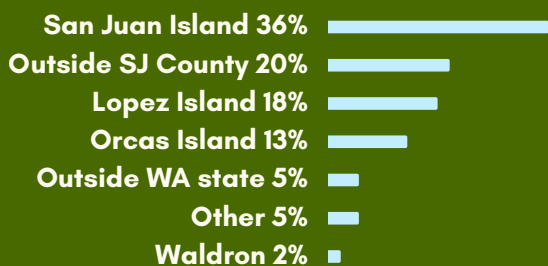
197

Unique registrations

139

Unique attendees
for Friday workshops

ATTENDEES PRIMARY RESIDENCE



“ Attending the summit has enhanced my understanding of the Island's farming community, their challenges and strengths, and helped me understand how I can cater the resources I provide to better meet the unique needs of this community. ”

AVERAGE RATING ON OVERALL
EXPERIENCE, ON A SCALE OF
1 (VERY POOR) TO 5 (EXCELLENT)

4.7

IMPACTS & OUTCOMES



“

Helen Atthowe was amazing and inspiring. I'm eager to read her book and start experimenting more with growing fertilizers on my own farm.

”

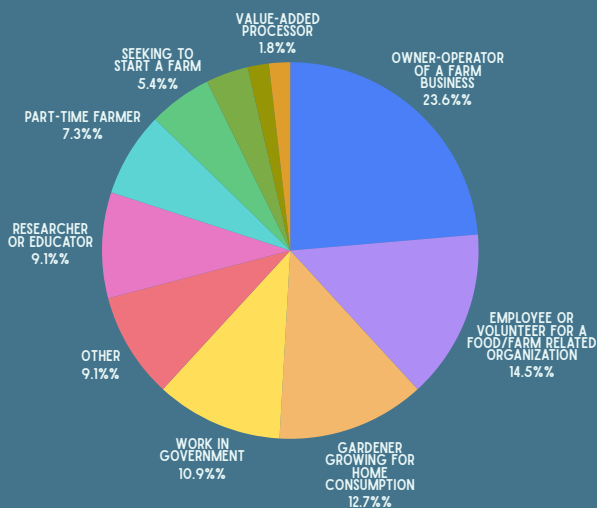
36% ATTENDED THE SUMMIT FOR THE FIRST TIME

38% OF ATTENDEES WHO FARM ARE BEGINNING FARMERS

“

Our daughter had an excellent time and has already asked to come back next year!

”



ATTENDEES REPRESENT
1000+
ACRES MANAGED



81%

ATTENDEES SAID THEY DEVELOPED SKILLS AT THE SUMMIT TO START OR IMPROVE THEIR FARM BUSINESS

“

Attending the summit has enhanced my understanding of the Island's farming community, their challenges and strengths, and helped me understand how I can cater the resources I provide to better meet the unique needs of this community.

”



Keynote Speaker, Helen Atthowe



65% PLAN TO MAKE CHANGES TO THEIR AGRICULTURAL PRACTICE



60% OF ATTENDEES ARE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS



THANK YOU 2026 SUMMIT SPONSORS!

FARM CHAMPION



Washington
State Department of
Agriculture

Regional Markets Program

FARM SUSTAINER



**SAN JUAN ISLAND
GRANGE #966**



SAN JUAN COUNTY
LAND BANK



FARM SUPPORTER



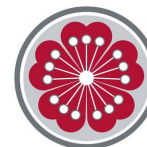
FRIEND OF FARMS

INEZ BLACK



SAN JUAN ISLAND
FOOD CO-OP
FRESH • LOCAL • ORGANIC

**Local
Seeds
COALITION**



Master Gardener Foundation



SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR ANONYMOUS DONORS