



**Whatcom Farm Speaker Series**  
**Farm Grant Opportunities: Meet and Greet**  
 October 15, 2019

Organization	Program Name	Program Details	Program Eligibility	Notes
<p><b>Whatcom Conservation District</b></p> <p><b>Katie Pencke</b>  <a href="mailto:kpencke@whatcomcd.org">kpencke@whatcomcd.org</a>            360-526-2381 x 105</p> <p><b>Frank Corey</b>  <a href="mailto:fcorey@whatcomcd.org">fcorey@whatcomcd.org</a>            360-526-2381 x 131</p> <p><b>Aneka Sweeney</b>  <a href="mailto:asweeney@whatcomcd.org">asweeney@whatcomcd.org</a>            360-526-2381 x 103</p>	Small Farm Rebate	\$200 towards barn gutters or heavy use area footing.	Livestock owners in Whatcom County in coastal watersheds (Nooksack River, Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay).	
	Small Farm Cost Share	Up to \$3000 for Best Management Practices on farms with a completed site assessment and a Farm Plan.	Livestock owners in Whatcom County in coastal watersheds (Nooksack River, Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay). Projects with a positive impact on water quality.	
	Washington State Conservation Commission Cost Share	Up to \$50,000 for Best Management Practices on farms with a completed site assessment and a Farm Plan.	Livestock owners in Whatcom County in coastal watersheds (Nooksack River, Drayton Harbor, Birch Bay). Projects with a positive impact on water quality.	
	Farm Equipment Loan	WCD has a manure spreader and small-scale poultry processing equipment available for rent.	Individuals residing in Whatcom County. <i>To use the Spreader, landowners must have a nutrient management consultation and pasture soil test ( a free and confidential service by WCD)</i>	
	Fish Passage Barrier Removal	Funding to replace stream crossings (culverts) that are barriers to fish passage.	Any land with a fish bearing stream. Free assessment.	
	Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	Receive a signing bonus and annual rental payments. Pays for cost of plantings and maintenance for five years. Site preparation includes invasive plant removal and fencing to exclude livestock.	Landowners interested in planting trees and shrubs along the river, creeks, ditches and/or wetlands. Generally projects must be at least 1-acre in size.	
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<p><b><u>Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)</u></b></p> <p><b>Joy Hawley</b>  <a href="mailto:joy.hawley@wa.usda.gov">joy.hawley@wa.usda.gov</a>  360-318-8121 x 6100</p>	<p>Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)</p>	<p>Financial and technical assistance to implement conservation practices that address natural resource concerns.</p>	<p>Ag producers, owners of non-industrial private forestland and Tribes. Projects focus on manure management, irrigation upgrades, forest management, erosion control, pasture enhancement, and high tunnels.</p>	
<p><b><u>USDA Rural Development</u></b></p> <p><b>Brandon Hoffman</b>  <a href="mailto:brandon.hoffman@wa.usda.gov">brandon.hoffman@wa.usda.gov</a>  360-488-4841</p>	<p>Value-Added Producer Grant (VAPG)</p>	<p>Pays for operational expenses related to the value-added product, such as processing, marketing, and distribution costs.</p>	<p>Farmers that are creating or planning to create a value-added product.</p>	
	<p>Rural Energy for America Program (REAP)</p>	<p>Helps pay for the installation or construction of renewable energy systems and energy efficiency improvements.</p>	<p>Farmers and Rural Small Businesses.</p>	
<p><b><u>Whatcom Land Trust</u></b></p> <p><b>Gabe Epperson</b>  <a href="mailto:gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org">gabe@whatcomlandtrust.org</a>  360-746-6688</p>	<p>Farming for Food &amp; Wildlife</p>	<p>Bridge Loan for farm purchase. The amount varies and is repaid when easement closes. All or some of the loan may be forgivable.</p>	<p>Farmers looking for additional funding resources for land with ecological value and/or development rights.</p>	
<p><b><u>Whatcom County Planning and Development Services</u></b></p> <p><b>Chris Elder</b>  <a href="mailto:celder@co.whatcom.wa.us">celder@co.whatcom.wa.us</a>  360-778-6225</p>	<p>Purchase of Development Rights (PDR)</p>	<p>Pays landowners for the value of their unexercised residential development potential and enacts an agricultural conservation easement</p>	<p>Landowners with potential development rights who are looking to protect their farm from future development.</p>	

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<p><b><u>Community Food Co-op</u></b></p> <p><b>Jean Rogers</b>  <a href="mailto:jeanr@communityfood.coop">jeanr@communityfood.coop</a>  360-734-8158</p>	Farm Fund Grant	Up to \$8000 divided among the selected recipients. The next funding cycle begins in Nov. '19.	Multi-farm collaborations and projects that strengthen local, sustainable agriculture at large in Whatcom and Skagit counties.	
	Farm Fund Secured Loans	Loans of \$500 - \$12,000, secured at 3% interest through ICU for machinery, equipment, greenhouses, supplies, on-farm construction or other resources for increasing productivity. Next funding cycle begins in Nov. '19	Whatcom or Skagit county farmers (must supply Whatcom county) working to stabilize or expand their farm, or improve farm infrastructure.	
	Next Step Grants	Grants paired with loans or other investments. Grant-to-loan ratio is 1-4. A minimum grant amount of \$1250 corresponds to a \$5000 loan. Maximum grant amount is \$5000 corresponding to a loan of \$20,000. Evidence of recent financial investment or a loan application must accompany the application. The next funding cycle begins in Nov. '19	Farmers in Whatcom or Skagit counties looking to expand and serve the wholesale market in Whatcom county with organic and sustainably produced products.	
<p><b><u>Cloud Mountain Farm</u></b></p> <p><b>Alex Smith</b>  <a href="mailto:alexs@sustainableconnections.org">alexs@sustainableconnections.org</a>  206-890-4063</p>	Farm Incubator	Program offers soil, equipment, access to irrigation, barn space, propagation space, limited cooler and dry storage space, educational opportunities, and access to a distribution location serving market outlets.	Beginning farmers and individuals with are interested in starting or expanding a farm business.	
<p><b><u>Sustainable Connections</u></b></p> <p><b>Alex Smith</b>  <a href="mailto:alexs@sustainableconnections.org">alexs@sustainableconnections.org</a>  206-890-4063</p>	Food to Bank On	3 years of support which include business planning workshops, mentorship, payments for food deliveries to hunger relief groups, and marketing support.	Beginning farmers with 1-3 years of farm operations experience.	

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<p><b><u>USDA Farm Service Agency</u></b></p> <p><b>Darcy K. Maldonado</b>  <a href="mailto:darcy.maldonado@usda.gov">darcy.maldonado@usda.gov</a>  360-592-6115</p>	Farm Ownership Loan Program	Provide loans to purchase farm land or farm improvements, including closing costs, and soil and water conservation practices.	Farmers who are unable to obtain financing from commercial lenders.	
	Operating loans	Provide loans to purchase equipment and livestock, minor real estate repairs, and annual operating expenses.		
<p><b><u>Northwest Agriculture Business Center</u></b></p> <p><b>Jeff Voltz</b>  <a href="mailto:jeff@agbizcenter.org">jeff@agbizcenter.org</a>  360-593-4744</p>	N/A	Technical assistance to help producers prepare for and/or access grant and loan programs.	Farmers who are interested in business start-up or expansion, value added food production, or farmers markets.	
<p><b><u>Ecotrust</u></b></p> <p><b>Yolimar Rivera Vázquez</b>  <a href="mailto:yolimar@ecotrust.org">yolimar@ecotrust.org</a>  503- 467-0819</p>	Ag of the Middle Accelerator Program	Two-year business development program providing formal instruction from experts in accounting and finance, taxation, credit, succession planning, and sales and marketing. Content is primarily delivered via webinars with one or two in-person convening a year. Trainings, networking events and calls are scheduled between November and March. Special support may be available for applicants of color and enrolled tribal members.	Independent, for profit farmers, ranchers and fishermen based in Northern California, Oregon, Washington, or Alaska that have been in business for at least two years; ideally, has annual gross sales of at least \$100,000 or on the path to scaling up. Must have experience or interest in selling wholesale to restaurants, retail, or institutional markets, and demonstrate a commitment towards building healthy community and stewarding healthy soil and waters.	

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<p><b><u>Seattle Tilth/ HumanLinks Foundation</u></b></p> <p><b>Rachel Schindler</b>  <a href="mailto:applications@tilthalliance.org">applications@tilthalliance.org</a>            715-507-0028</p>	HumanLinks Grant	\$2000 and \$20,000 to improve and/or expand operation, reduce environmental impacts, or become a more sustainable business.	Farmers who have been in business for at least two years, Priority given to small operations with approximately 40 acres or less.	
<p><b><u>Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT)</u></b></p>	2019 Fund-A-Farmer Grants	\$2,500 for individual farmers. Up to \$5,000 for joint applications. Certification Grant, Capacity Grant & Pasture Grant categories.	Competitive grants to working, independent family farmers located in the continental U.S. who raise beef cattle, broiler chickens, dairy cows, goats, laying hens, pigs, sheep and/or turkeys.	
<p><b><u>Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education (SARE), USDA</u></b></p>	Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Grants in Sustainable Agriculture	Up to \$20,000 over three years for individual farms. Producers are main applicants. With technical advisors producers integrate research and education to conduct on-site/on-farm experiments to improve production, marketing, and the environment.	Primary occupation is for-profit farming or ranching or you are a part-time producer with at least \$1000 documented annual income from farming or ranching activities.	
<p><b><u>Organic Farming Research Foundation (OFRF)</u></b></p>	Research Grants Program	OFRF offers up to \$20,000 for one year. Research and dissemination of research on organic farming, ranching, and food systems.	Proposals must involve farmers or ranchers in project design and implementation, and must take place on certified organic land, ideally on working organic farms or ranches.	

**Additional Notes:**