

FARM PLANNING



The Skagit Conservation District provides *free* technical assistance to local landowners interested in improving their property by developing and implementing a farm plan. A **farm plan** is a series of actions developed to meet the goals of each individual landowner while protecting water quality and the natural resources.

Some of the things considered in a farm plan are farm size, soil type, slope of the land, proximity to streams or bodies of water, and types of livestock or crops.

HOW IT WORKS

Site Visit: A Skagit Conservation District farm planner walks the property with the owner to identify natural resource concerns, opportunities, and the farms goals.

Recommendations: The planner then recommends possible actions such as rotational grazing, cover cropping, using manure as a fertilizer, targeted weed management, stream buffer planting and fencing, a compost facility, or establishing a heavy use paddock for livestock.



Farm Plan: These recommendations are developed into a farm plan which is discussed with the landowner, *this is a voluntary commitment*. Once the owner approves of the plan, an implementation schedule is set.

Review and Approval: The agreement is submitted to the SCD Board for review and approval. Once approved, the owner can request assistance from SCD!

FARM PLANNING PROCESS

- Initial Site Visit with farm owner/operator.
- Review and signature of Cooperator Agreement and Public Records Act Info.
- Cooperator Agreement submitted to SCD Board for review and approval.
- The farm plan is developed, and alternatives discussed with and selected by the farm owner/operator.
- The final plan is reviewed by the farm owner/operator, who signs the plan.
- The plan is submitted to the SCD Board for review and approval.
- The farm plan process is now complete!
- The farm owner/operator may now request assistance for implementation, such as structure designs and application for cost-share.