

*All services provided by the Skagit Conservation District are free and without obligation. We are a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency.*

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A farm conservation plan is a document developed by your Conservation District and you, the farmer or land manager. It's a series of actions designed to meet a farmer's goals while protecting water quality and natural resources. Some of the things considered in a farm plan are farm size, soil type, slope of the land, proximity to water bodies, type of livestock or crops and finances available. The Skagit Conservation District works with farms of all sizes, from backyard horse owners to dairy and crop operations!



## How it Works

Planning starts with a site visit where a Conservation District farm planner listens to the farm goals and objectives and then walks the property with the manager to identify management challenges and natural resource concerns. The planner then recommends possible actions such as a rotational grazing, cover cropping, using manure as a fertilizer, targeted weed management, stream buffer planting and fencing, building a compost facility or establishing a heavy use paddock for livestock. The recommendations are reviewed by the farmer/land manager and, with the help of a farm planner, a plan and schedule for action is developed.



The final plan is a voluntary commitment. Once the farmer/land manager has decided on a course of action, a tentative implementation schedule is set and the farm plan is recorded. Revisions of the can be made as the goals and needs of the farm change. In some cases, a farm plan can open the door to benefits such as such as financial assistance for projects, reduced farm development permit costs or eligibility for farm conservation tax reduction (PBRs). A farm plan may assist farmers in meeting the requirements of Skagit County land management codes, including the Livestock Management Ordinance and the Critical Areas Ordinance. If you would like help improving your stewardship of your farm, contact the Conservation District at [360-428-4313](tel:360-428-4313) and ask for farm planning assistance.

