

Orcas Food Co-op Announces \$10K Available for this Year's FARM Fund Grants

The San Juan County FARM Fund is a grant program started by the Orcas Food Co-op as a vehicle for increasing local food production and developing sustainable agriculture in San Juan County. "FARM" stands for Food Agriculture Relationships and Markets. Applications are now being accepted for the 2019 cycle. Producers throughout San Juan County are eligible to apply for grants up to \$2,500. A total of up to \$10,000 is available.

The San Juan Islands have a rich agricultural history and are experiencing a resurgence of local food and farming in recent years, with both the number of farms and total farm revenue on an upward trajectory. As the newly adopted Vision Statement for San Juan County states "Agricultural activities are essential to the health and well-being of our community, contributing to the social, economic and environmental fabric of our islands." Despite recent gains, local food still accounts for only an estimated 2-3% of total food consumed in the islands, and many barriers exist that are holding producers back from meeting the demand...

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