

December 6, 2017

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the **San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild (Ag Guild)**, we are asking for your financial support to continue our work to foster a vibrant, resilient and sustainable local food system in San Juan County. Your donation will help us further our key projects for 2018!

Connect New Farmers to Farmland

The majority of farmers in our region are over 60 years old.

*With more farmers over the age of 70 than farmers under the age of 35, **who will be growing our food in the future?***

- USDA 2012 Ag Census

Now, more than ever before, we need to help the next generation of farmers access affordable and fertile farmland for production of healthy local foods. A USDA Beginning Farmers Ranchers Development Grant was awarded to a consortium of organizations to support new farmers in the San Juan Islands and on Whidbey Island. As one component, the Ag Guild is working directly with new farmers to identify individual goals, experience, and assets. In addition, this program seeks to connect farmland owners who wish to sell, lease or transfer their farmland to a farmer who will farm the land. Support and information about leasing or purchasing land, potential funding sources that support new farmers, access to technical training and business planning are available on our website: www.sjiagguild.com/beginningfarmers/



Island Grown

is a membership program that is committed to upholding high standards for quality farm products that are good for our community, our lands, our local economy,

and promotes a sustainable future. The Ag Guild supports over 45 members with branding, promotion, mapping, and networking of food related businesses to establish regional and local recognition for foods and farm products under the *Island Grown* label. In 2018, we are working with project partners to create a county-wide local farm and product guide and an agritourism map. More info at www.islandgrownsj.com.

"Island Grown has helped put my produce on the plates of people that care a great deal about local, fresh, and organic food."

- Todd Gardner, Lost Valley Farm

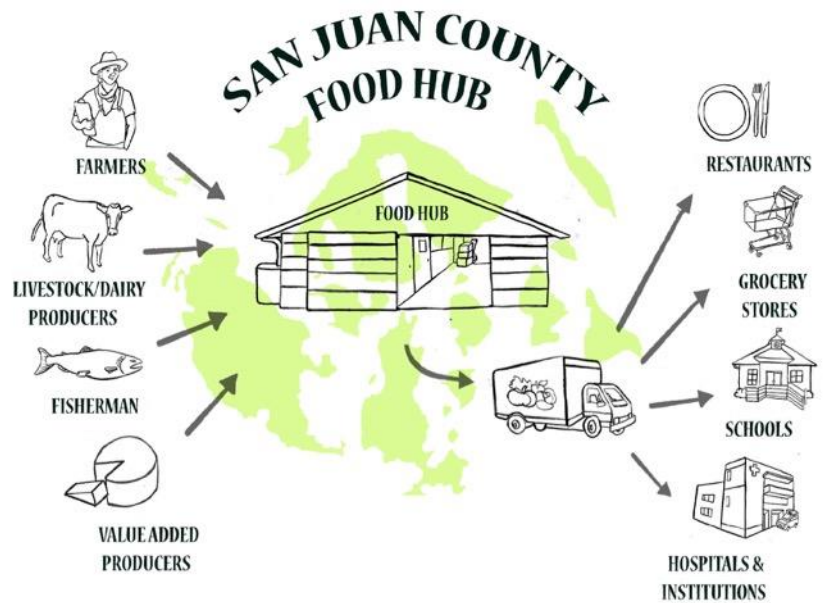
San Juan County Food Hub

85% of San Juan County farmers identified problems with distribution as their highest challenge.

- 2015 San Juan County Food Hub Feasibility Study

The SJC Food Hub will provide a network of cold storage facilities on Orcas, San Juan and Lopez islands to aggregate locally grown food to wholesale buyers throughout the county and the mainland.

Help us grow a sustainable local food system that makes more efficient connections between sellers and buyers in San Juan County. **With your support, we will set up the infrastructure to launch the Food Hub in 2018!** www.sjiagguild.com/san-juan-county-food-hub/



"Brickworks has been instrumental in the success of my small business start-up. By providing a commercial-grade community kitchen at an affordable rate, Island Grown has helped turn my dream into reality."

- Frank Sicilia, Rolling Sushi owner/chef

Brickworks

Brickworks is a historic rental venue in the heart of Friday Harbor. It also provides reduced rentals to nonprofits in the county, including the San Juan Island Farmers Market. The commercial kitchen acts as an incubator for businesses making food related products, catering services, and food vendors. Brickworks proceeds help fund Ag Guild programs. For more info: www.fhbrickworks.com.

Thank you for contributing to the local economy as well as the overall quality of island life by supporting the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild.

- **Donation by check payable to SJIAG.** Mail to: PO Box 1945, Friday Harbor, WA 98250
- **Donation by credit card:** www.sjiagguild.com/donations-fundraising/

2017 has been a very busy year for the Ag Guild. We accomplished a great deal – all made possible by the help and support of the island communities. In summary:

- **Hired our first Executive Director, Steph Coffey, to lead Ag Guild projects;**
- **Provided over \$9,000 in reduced or free venue rentals for community events;**
- **Co-sponsored the San Juan Islands Agricultural Summit, which brought together over 200 farmers on Orcas Island for two days of inspiration and education;**
- **Helped 11 new farmers and 10 landowners** with resources and connections to farm in San Juan County. Of those, two started farming and two more are preparing to start farming.
- **Organized the “Eat Island Grown Tasting Event”** connecting twelve local chefs with over twenty San Juan County farms and producers. Attendance was over 200 people.
- **Engaged with the school districts of SJC to explore options for procuring local foods** for students on Orcas, San Juan and Lopez islands through the future San Juan County Food Hub.
- **Upgraded our audio-visual system** to meet the needs of community events.
- **Increased economic opportunities and consumer engagement in agricultural** through partnerships with various island, county and state organizations.

Please help keep the heritage of agriculture alive on the islands and support the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild. Every donation makes a difference!

Warmly,

Board: Susie Wampler, Candace Jagel, Mike Pickett, Madden Surbaugh, Tim Barrette, Gretchen Krampf, Rob Waldron and David Bauermeister. Staff: Steph Coffey, Amy Plant and Cady Davies



Yes, I would like to donate \$_____ to the San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

San Juan Islands Agricultural Guild, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Your contribution will be tax deductible. Federal tax identification: 26-2167336.

- Receive email updates on San Juan County agriculture news and events.
- I am interested in volunteering.
- Use my donation where you need it most.
- Designate my donation in the following way:
