

# Skagit Farm Circle

Tuesday & Wednesday, November 13-14, 2024  
Skagit County Fairgrounds  
Mount Vernon, Washington



Dear Skagit County Educators,

On behalf of the Skagit County Fair, Western Washington Agriculture Association, and Whatcom Family Farmers, we warmly invite your 3rd grade students and teachers to the 1st Annual Skagit Farm Circle.

This will be a fun and informative half-day field trip for 3rd grade students, sponsored by the Skagit County agriculture community and farmers (including Washington State University Extension, Whatcom Family Farmers, Skagit Conservation District, Washington Ag in the Classroom, and Washington Grown).

We are piloting this event for the first time this year, but it is modeled after the popular, wait-list event held in Whatcom County since 2016.

Our objectives are as follows:

1. Provide a chance to meet real Skagit farm families and learn about what they do.
2. Provide an overview of local food production, targeting age-appropriate life science and environmental science curriculum.
3. Provide an overview of the importance of farmland to our county, local environment, economy, and the overall health of our planet.
4. Provide samples of healthy, locally-produced food and nutritional information.

Class groups will follow a Group Leader to circle through stations where they will experience:

- How various fruits and vegetables are grown, harvested, and processed in Skagit County
- How materials cycle through the food chain from photosynthesis to decomposition
- How dairy cows turn grass into milk, following the steps from pasture to grocery store (NOTE: no animals will be present at this event)
- How Skagit County farms provide homes not only to people and farm animals, but also to wild animals, birds, and fish
- How Skagit County farms help to keep water, soil, and air clean for everyone's benefit
- How Skagit County foods contribute to nutrition, with take home packaged food samples of local foods

This event will be free of charge, but advance reservations are required!

If you are unable to attend in person or if your registration comes in too late, we offer a virtual option on the Whatcom Family Farmers website. <https://whatcomfamilyfarmers.org/farmcircle/> While oriented toward Whatcom County, This online activity is both educational and shareable across your school districts, as it is not just catered to 3rd grade students.

We also ask that you please read and share the Skagit Farm Circle Expectations Document to all the 3rd grade teachers in your district to read. If you feel that your class will not be able to adhere to these guidelines, which help make our event run smoothly, we ask you to consider carefully before applying. On behalf of the Skagit Farm Circle Committee, we thank you for your consideration of these expectations.

**Please fill out the attached registration form for your 3rd grade classroom(s) if you hope to attend and kindly return the form by Tuesday, October 8th.** Please keep in mind that due to the capacity of our volunteers and schedule, we may not be able to accommodate all schools. This said, we encourage you to get your registration in as soon as possible if you wish to ensure your spot. This event will be booked on a first come, first serve basis.

For further information, please contact us at [skagitfarmcircle@gmail.com](mailto:skagitfarmcircle@gmail.com)

Kind regards,

*Frances Negranza*  
Assistant Manager



*Kara Rowe*  
Policy Director



*Ellie Steensma Corbin*  
Whatcom Farm Circle Director

