

Schroader, Kathy

From: Orjiako, Oliver
Sent: Monday, August 24, 2015 2:36 PM
To: Euler, Gordon; Alvarez, Jose
Cc: Schroader, Kathy
Subject: FW: USDA Farm Census: Farmgate Report



For the index:

From: Carol Levanen [mailto:cnldental@yahoo.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:04 PM
To: Madore, David; Stewart, Jeanne; Mielke, Tom; Orjiako, Oliver
Subject: Fw: USDA Farm Census: Farmgate Report

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
To: Carol Levanen <cnldental@yahoo.com>; "david.madore@clark.wa.gov" <david.madore@clark.wa.gov>; Jim Malinowski <j.malinowski@ieee.org>; susan rasmussen <sprazz@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 4:54 PM
Subject: Re: USDA Farm Census: Farmgate Report

The farmgate value of ag in Clark County is \$51 million from the 2012 Census. However, in the 2002 Census of Agriculture, it was \$54.4 million. By comparison, Yakima County was \$1.65 billion in 2012 and \$843.8 million in 2002.

Farmgate value is the same as the total value of crops and livestock produced in that county.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: susan rasmussen
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 4:47 PM
To: Carol Levanen, david.madore@clark.wa.gov, Jim Malinowski, susan rasmussen

2012 and 1954 USDA AG. CENSUS REPORTS
GLOBALWISE REPORT 4/2007, (C.C. commissioned)
Data contained in these reports should have been referenced in the draft EIS.

In 1970, C. C. was home to 300 dairy farms. The county now has 4-5. Dairy farming has been replaced by berries and nursery commodities. For the most part, C. C. farmers are senior citizens. There is an underlying reason why young farmers are not migrating to Clark County. Nationwide, 6% of farmers are 35 or younger. Farming is laborious, not a lucrative enterprise and requires a massive capital outlay expense. The exodus of large farms in C.C. is not new. The preponderance of small farms is referenced in the USDA 1954 Ag. Census Report...this is not new. It is referenced again in the Globalwise Report, 2007. The mass migration of large dairy farms continued relatively unabated despite large lot zoning efforts imposed by the 1994 growth plan. What appears important in these reports is that the size of the parcels for farms is secondary. The size of C. C. farms is historically documented, and unique to our area. This is the important element coming out of these reports.

1,929.....number of farms 2012

718 farm sales values less than \$1,000; 37% of Clark County farms
373 farm sales values \$1,000 - \$2,499; 19% of Clark County farms
306 farm sales values \$2,500 - \$4,999; 16% of Clark County farms
+ 1,397 or 72% of all Clark County farms had sales values below \$5,000

\$1,243 average cash farm income per farming operation
1,247 principal farm operator had another occupation
+ 65% of Clark County farmers are part-time operators
1,741 operators that used the farm as their residence
+ 90% of all farm operators
20.3 average years on present farm
1,416 operators that have been on their farms 10 years or more
+ 73% operators
513 farmers that have been farming in Clark County 9 years or less
+ USDA classifies these as "New farmers"
60 average age of a Clark County farmer
49 aver age of a C.C. farmer in 1945
897 farmers 60-70 years old
+ 47% of farmers
404 farmers over 70
+ 21% of farmers
+ 68% farmers aged 60 plus
1,678 farms that are family or individually owned
+ 87% of farms

851 farms size 1-9 acres
+ 44% of all Clark County farms are 9 acres or less

2,101 number of farms 2007 (Farm census are conducted every 5 yrs.)

74,758 acres in farms 2012

24,099 acres of harvested cropland

40 horse power: the majority of farms had tractors of this size. For the most part, this is an elevated garden tractor that doesn't have the required power to pull and operate farming implements

\$490,328,000 average estimated market value of farm land and buildings

\$12,652 average estimated market value per acre of farm land

Analysis of the Agricultural Economic Trends and Conditions in Clark County, Wa.

prepared by Globalwise, Inc., April 16, 2007

Pg. 26, FINANCING FARMS

"One of the notable findings of this analysis is that there are very few agricultural operations financed by commercial or government lenders. Information provided by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture shows that they have had no new borrowers in Clark County in the last 10 years that have purchased 10 or more acres under the agency's farm loan programs. This is significant because the FSA is the government lender to farm borrowers who do not qualify for standard commercial loans. If FSA is not making these loans, it is also very doubtful that commercial lenders have borrowers who have purchased land and other capital assets. In fact, contacts with several commercial banks identified only one bank which said they had made loans to a few nurseries in recent years."

"As the overall economy of C. C. increases, agriculture is a shrinking share. In 2004, agriculture employment accounted for about 1% of the county's total employment. Local agriculture also does not contribute very significantly to local food manufacturing. Less than 4% of the county's food processing is contributed from within the county."

“Lack of income and profit by farmers in C. C. has led to reduced land area in commercial farming. This study has identified 145 farms with 3,113 acres in commercial production. Some of these farms are also leasing land.”

“Historical trends and existing conditions indicate that the action to expand the UGA boundary is not the cause for the diminishing long-term commercial significance for agricultural production from these lands. The land markets have already signaled that farmers will not bid for land for its agricultural productivity at prices equal to what buyers for homes and other development uses will pay. Farming much of these lands areas in not viable for the long term even though the county has agricultural zoning limits on development, and land owners can receive greatly reduced property taxes through current use agricultural land designation.”

The 1954 USDA Ag. Census Report states:

“Income per farm is slightly below the state average mainly because of numerous, small, part-time farms which outnumber the larger commercial farms.”

“The historical farm statistics show that C. C. has always been dominated by small family farms.” However, small keeps getting smaller. In 1954 it was reported; “Small farms are characteristic of agriculture in C. C. Over 2/3rds of all farms in the county are less than 50 acres in size.” In 2002, the census data shows 80% of all farms were less than 50 acres in the county. The average size of a C. C. farm was down to 44 acres and median size was 20 acres.” In 2012, 44% of C. C. farms are 9 acres or less. This makes for an average of 4.9 acres per farm.

Sent from Windows Mail

From: Carol Levanen
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 9:29 AM
To: David Madore <david.madore@clark.wa.gov>

Dear Councilor Madore,

We have been concerned that none of the ag census is in the EIS for guidance, so this email is very timely. We had intended to revisit it and we thank you for forwarding the link.

Best Regards, Carol

From: "Madore, David" <David.Madore@clark.wa.gov>
To: "Carol Levanen (cnldental@yahoo.com)" <cnldental@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2015 7:34 AM
Subject: FW: Link to USDA Farm Census

Carol,

I welcome your feedback on the information from this report that is relevant to Alternative 4.

Thanks

David

-----Original Message-----

From: Euler, Gordon
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 3:05 PM

To: Madore, David
Cc: McCauley, Mark
Subject: Link to USDA Farm Census

Councilor:

When we met on Monday, you requested the link to the 2012 USDA Agricultural Census: [http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume 1, Chapter 2 County Level/](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov/Publications/2012/Full_Report/Volume_1,_Chapter_2_County_Level/)

Gordy

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