

David Madore added 7 new photos.

May 24 at 1:20am · Edited ·

Farming in Clark County – growing local healthy fresh food:

Thanks to Warren Neth and Slow Food Southwest Washington for organizing a 5 hour tour across our rural landscape on Friday.

The tour began with a tour of Firestone Pacific Food's local facility that washes, sorts, flash freezes, and packages fresh berries on Fruit Valley Road in Vancouver. We interviewed with the owner who expressed the difficulties of farming in areas surrounded by residential neighbors. <http://www.firestonepacificfoods.com/>

Even though Clark County has the best right to farm policies in the state, unless farms have a large natural (unfarmed) buffer around their perimeter, trying to farm in acreage surrounded by homes unavoidably impacts the neighbors with often undesirable smells, sprays, chemicals, noises, dust, and machinery. For that reason, attempts to preserve small farms near residential areas can be problematic.

But some farms can also be the best of neighbors as demonstrated April and Brad at April Joy Farm, a model Organic Farm in Ridgefield. <http://apriljoyfarm.com/>

The passion for growing local fresh food for our community is being lived out by these dedicated full time small farmers in a way that inspires others to adopt organic farming as a fulfilling way of life. Local families become loyal supporters as they realize firsthand the treasure of locally grown healthy food. It is possible to make a good living full time on a farm as small as 26 acres with great soil and a well that provides ample water.

We also visited a winery in Ridgefield, Gouger Winery, where the owner also makes the most incredible ice cream. Gary Gouger envisions teaching new college specialty trade courses that train others in the art of making wine to enrich Clark County's new thriving Winery Industry. Gary is a highly educated and passionate entrepreneur with a new thriving business. <http://www.gcwinery.com/>

There was plenty of conversation in the van that carried us around the county with experts desiring to help elected leaders to better address problems with improved solutions to plan the future of our community. They provided me with ample information to study and consider so we can make wise more informed choices. There is still much insight to be gained. (Click on a picture for more details)

Thank you to Mr. Neth and all of the team members that invested their day championing local farms for our community.



CP16#0698



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John Breuer Wish they agreed with you about lot size on the Camas Planning Commission- the Green Mt. RPD contemplates 4.5 residences per acre on average, if I recall, with multiple family unit dwellings included- so not going to be a lot of apple trees there, I'm afraid.

Like · Reply · May 24 at 9:38pm



Marla Young Thank you Mr. Madore for taking the time to really delve in to what impacts the Alternative 4 plan could have on our local farms. I want Clark County government to be a model of farmer friendly practices. Community resilience is greatly enhanced with... See More

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