

ABOUT THE ARC

In the fall of 2005, the Board of County Commissioners established an Agricultural Resources Committee (ARC). ARC's mission is to advocate for the restoration of agricultural resources in San Juan County. To accomplish these goals, ARC members are organized into subcommittees on priority issues as follows:

- **Farm Marketing**
- **Farmland Preservation**
- **Farm Regulation**

Powers and Duties:

1. Report to and advise the County Council (formerly known as the Board of County Commissioners) about regulatory, economic, land use, environmental, and educational matters so as to support and promote viable agricultural activities in San Juan County.
2. Advise the County Council on specific efforts and projects that should be pursued to preserve and restore agriculture as a viable part of San Juan County's economy.
3. Work with other ARCs or similar groups in the North Puget Sound region to develop regional support for common issues that will benefit a broad segment of agriculture, and develop agricultural policies, programs and projects that can be duplicated and implemented in other North Puget Sound communities.
4. Address local and regional agricultural issues that relate to threatened or endangered species and their habitats, and implement programs and create public dialogue around the need to protect the environment and preserve the viability of local agriculture.
5. Address local and regional agricultural issues that relate to economic development, job retention and expansion and, recommend policies and implement programs that will retain, expand and diversify the economic viability of local agriculture.
6. Identify food security needs and recommend policies and implement programs to increase the availability, distribution and consumption of locally-produced foods across all economic sectors of the population.
7. Encourage public participation in evaluating and developing agricultural policies, programs and projects.
8. Provide public outreach regarding the linkages between viable farms, local foods, and the rural landscape that attracts both residents and visitors to the islands.