

# PRESERVING FARMS — IN — CLARK COUNTY

FALL 2008

## PRESERVING FARMS — IN — CLARK COUNTY

Clark County is working on a farm preservation program with the Washington State Conservation Commission.

A local advisory committee has drafted some related strategies. Public comments are encouraged through November 17, 2008.

After that, the committee will make recommendations to the Board of Clark County Commissioners.

Please submit your comments after reviewing the key challenges and proposed strategies.



FALL 2008

## PRESERVING FARMS — IN — CLARK COUNTY

**CHALLENGE:**

Need for stronger organization

**PROPOSALS:**

- Agricultural commission to address policies and regulations
- Focus preservation efforts in agricultural production districts



FALL 2008

## PRESERVING FARMS — IN — CLARK COUNTY

**CHALLENGE:**

Cost of land

**PROPOSALS:**

- Create lease-back program on county-owned land
- Cluster and transfer development rights
- Purchase of development rights program for key farm lands
- Put priority on funding purchase of development rights
- Link retiring farmers with current or new farmers to keep land in production



FALL 2008

## PRESERVING FARMS — IN — CLARK COUNTY

**CHALLENGE:**

Production costs/low return

**PROPOSALS:**

- Expand tax incentives
- Help farmers obtain health insurance
- Establish revolving loan fund
- Cost sharing to help meet environmental requirements
- Explore agricultural cooperatives



FALL 2008

**PRESERVING FARMS**  
— IN —  
**CLARK COUNTY**

**CHALLENGE:**

Need for more expert advice

**PROPOSALS:**

- Ensure local expertise for horticulture and livestock
- Establish “farmbudsperson” to help farmers work with county
- Establish endowment to fund research, technical assistance and education



FALL 2008

**PRESERVING FARMS**  
— IN —  
**CLARK COUNTY**

**CHALLENGE:**

Better marketing and promotion

**PROPOSALS:**

- Create “Clark County Fresh” logo and campaign
- Facilitate permanent sites for farmers’ markets
- Help with independent marketing association



FALL 2008

**PRESERVING FARMS**  
— IN —  
**CLARK COUNTY**

**CHALLENGE:**

Regulation

**PROPOSALS:**

- Review building and health codes for agriculture and food marketing
- Increase flexibility for commercial uses related to farming
- Clarify regulations regarding housing for farm workers



FALL 2008

**PRESERVING FARMS**  
— IN —  
**CLARK COUNTY**

**CHALLENGE:**

Conflicts related to increasing population

**PROPOSALS:**

- Revise right-to-farm ordinance
- Establish buffer zones between farms and urban uses



