

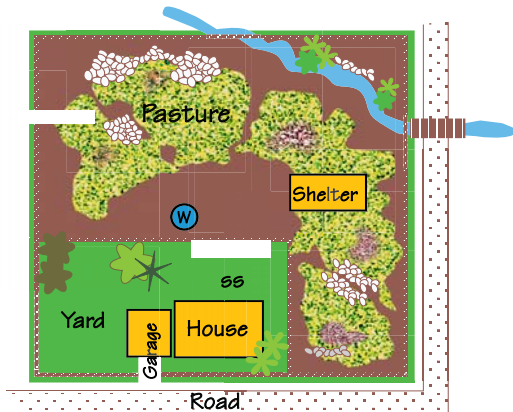


FARM PLANNING OVERVIEW

A farm conservation plan is a document developed by your Conservation District and you, the farmer or land manager. It's a plan designed to meet your goals while protecting water quality and natural resources. Some of the things considered in a farm plan are farm size, soils type, slope of the land, proximity to water bodies, type of livestock or crops, and finances available. The Whidbey Island Conservation District works with farms of all sizes, from backyard horse owners to dairy and crop operations!

All services provided by the Conservation District are free and without obligation. We are a non-regulatory, non-enforcement agency.

How it Works



Before Farm Plan

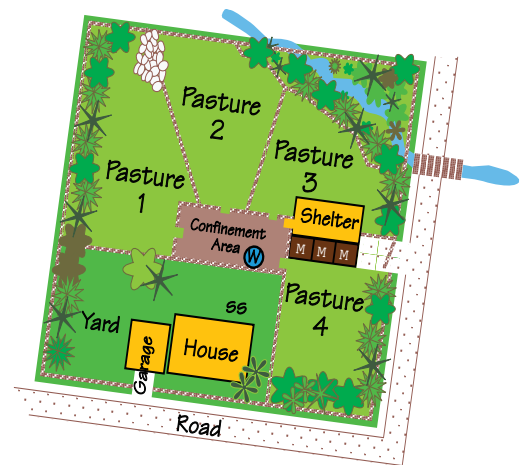
Planning starts with a site visit where a Conservation District farm planner listens to the farm goals and objectives and then walks the property with the manager to identify management challenges and natural resource concerns.

The planner then recommends possible actions such as rotational grazing, cover cropping, using manure as a fertilizer, targeted weed management, stream buffer planting, fencing, building a compost facility or establishing a heavy use paddock for livestock. You review the recommendations with the help of the farm planner, and make decisions for your farm plan.

The final plan is a voluntary commitment. Once you make your decisions, a tentative implementation schedule is set and the farm plan is documented. Revisions of the plan can be made as the goals and needs of the farm change.

In some cases, a farm plan can open the door to benefits such as financial assistance for projects, or eligibility for farm conservation tax reduction (PBRs). A farm plan may assist farmers in meeting requirements of Island County land management codes, including the Critical Areas Ordinance.

If you would like help improving your stewardship of your farm, contact the Conservation District at (888) 678-4922 and ask for farm planning assistance.



After Farm Plan