

This tour will take you through the scenic Skagit Valley farmland with a presentation of the Samish Bay Watershed Initiative. The focus will be on the partnership that has developed amongst farmers and livestock farmers, Tribes, conservation districts, nonprofit organizations and state, federal and local agencies to minimize the impact of farming on coastal production of shell fish. Tour participants will have the opportunity to visit the Taylor Shellfish farm (the largest producer of Manila clams and Geoducks in the US) as well as visit small farms in the area that have adopted best management practices to reduce runoff.

This tour focuses on the immense water quality implementation efforts of the Samish Bay Watershed to reduce shellfish bed closures due to unsafe pollution levels by a number of local organizations including shellfish and livestock farmers, Tribes, conservation districts, nonprofit organizations and state, federal and local agencies. This joint effort has been working since 2010 to decrease the risk of nutrient and fecal coliform from farms and backyards in the watershed during periods of rain and high rainfall events.

For more information on The Clean Samish Initiative, Please visit:

<http://www.skagitcounty.net/Common/Asp/Default.asp?d=PublicWorksCleanWater&c=General&p=cleansamish.htm>

For more information on Taylor Shellfish, Please Visit: <http://www.taylorshellfishfarms.com/>