Whidbey Island Farm Evaluation Tool: Self Assessment

Name: _____

Address: _____

Farm Address (if different): _____

Phone: _____email: _____
Size of farm in acres: _____ Amount of acres in active use: _____

This Farm Evaluation tool was developed by local producers to assist and encourage Whidbey Island Farmers in their efforts to employ farming practices that help to preserve the productive capacity of farmland for this and future generations. It addresses many of the concerns expressed by consumers of locally produced agriculture; its purpose is to provide consumers and retailers a level of assurance that products displaying the Whidbey Island Grown brand are produced in a manner that is sensitive to both the land and livestock on Whidbey Island. The tool also serves to screen manufactured products to ensure products displaying the brand are following good manufacturing practices.

Agricultural Producers on Whidbey Island with the following certifications will be automatically given the opportunity to participate in the branding and promotion program of the Whidbey Island Brand, ***Whidbey Island Grown***.

1. Food Alliance Certified
2. USDA, WSDA or Oregon Tilth Organic Certification
3. Naturally Raised as specified by the USDA
4. Certified Naturally Grown

Those Whidbey Island producers who are not currently certified by one of these four entities must fill out the Self-assessment Evaluation Tool. We have chosen to begin with self assessment and the honor system. An independent off-Island auditor will be hired by the Whidbey Island Brand Management Group to have periodic spot assessments of our membership.

Farms not having any of the four certifications mentioned above are required to comply with all of the Fixed Standards detailed below and complete the self assessment Evaluation Tool.
A representative of the Whidbey Island Grown brand will review the results of the self assessment to determine eligibility to use the brand and become part of the Whidbey Island Grown cooperative advertising program.

An invoice for membership in this cooperative marketing venture will be sent with your membership packet.

We look forward to seeing Whidbey Island Grown logos on Whidbey Island products and seeing farm revenues and farming on Whidbey Island GROW!

Thank You. Please continue.

Fixed Standards: 1-4

1. Reducing Pesticide Usage: ***(Refer to Prohibited List attached to this* document)**

☐Pesticides are selected that are low toxicity or low in risk. Best management practices are used/or a licensed applicator is used for application.

No Prohibited Pesticides used: Check the following as applicable

☐Only pesticides registered in the state as approved for target pests and crop or livestock are used. All legal requirements for pesticide record keeping are met. USDA requires, and states enforce, the following records for all applications of restricted use pesticides: name of applicator, date, field location or area, are treated, pesticide name and EPA registration number, total amount applied, and crop.

☐None of the pesticides listed in the Reducing Pesticide usage section are used on this farm.

☐Other._____

2.No sub-therapeutic (feed additive) antibiotics used

(The subtherapeutic use of antibiotics is producing more resistant strains of these illnesses, prompting grave human health concerns. If animals are ill and/or using antibiotics at the time of slaughter, they will not be allowed to disple)

☐Sub-therapeutic antibiotics are not used in animal production on the farm.

☐Sub-therapeutic antibiotics are used on the farm.

Check the verification method used:

☐Feed and/or veterinary records demonstrate no antibiotic used.

☐Producer attests to production without sub-therapeutic antibiotics.

☐Other:_____

3.No Hormones Used: Check the following as applicable

(Animals may be fed with GMO feeds since comingled feed supplies are the norm.)

☐Growth-promoting hormones are not used in animal production on the farm.

☐Growth-promoting hormones are used on the farm.

Name of products:_____

Check the verification method used:

☐Veterinary and production records are complete, and show no use of hormone implants.

☐Other. _____

4. No GMO seeds (or breeds) are used: Check the following as applicable:

Crops and livestock products displaying the Whidbey Island Grown Brand must not be produced with genetically modified organisms. Animals may be fed with GMO feeds since feed supplies are currently co-mingled.

☐There are no GMO plants or animals produced on the farm.

☐GMO plants or animals are produced on the farm, but they are not produced or sold as a Whidbey Island Brand-Approved product (e.g. GMO soybeans).

☐If GMO plants or animals are produced on the farm, please list them here:

_____

Check the verification methods used:

☐Records show the plant varieties grown and/or breeds produced. These are non-GMO varieties, breeds.

☐There are currently no GMO varieties for the crops or breeds produced.

☐Producer describes GMO use (if any) and labeling/marketing:_____

_____

☐Other:_____

Continue Self-Assessment

Protect Soil & Water Resources

Use tillage techniques that minimize water run-off and enrich the soil. Comply with Island County regulations regarding buffer zones around waterways and wetlands. Manage animal wastes to prevent contamination of water resources.

Soil and Water Conservation

Farmer/producer uses technical and current source information to aid in soil and water conservation. Check issues you are working with your farm. Check off as applicable.

☐Erosion prevention strategies
☐Nutrient budgets
☐Irrigation systems and management
☐Soil quality monitoring
☐Precision application of plant nutrients
☐Incorporation of crop residue or compost
☐Cover cropping
☐Conservation tillage
☐Soil building crop rotations
☐Soil ecology
☐Soil biota
☐Water conservation practices
☐ Forestry management

Protect Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife Habitat Conservation Evaluation

The intent of this section is to raise awareness, looking at the farm owner/operator as a land steward. These criteria are to measure attitude and education rather than outcome.

Habitat Conservation Improvement: The farm is involved in at least two of the following.

Low impact Improvements	**High Impact Improvements**
☐Establish native vegetation along unused areas	☐Participate in WHIP or EQIP to conserve wildlife habitat
☐Built owl & bat boxes	☐Establish wildlife corridors
☐Leave standing deadwood	☐Pastures for profit and for wildlife
☐Fallow field left with cover crops	☐Windbreaks for erosion prevention and wildlife habitat

☐Other_____
☐Other_____

Invasive species prevention and management

☐Understands the important of managing invasive species and noxious weeds, is able to identify them, and has at least a limited management program for them and if needed a planned re-vegetation of desirable plants.

Wildlife food, cover, water

☐If any natural area exits on farm, actions are taken to minimize adverse effects on wildlife food, cover, and water resources in these areas, such as reducing vehicle traffic and leaving tall grass un-mowed during migration or reproductive times.

Linking individual wildlife habitat conservation activities together

☐Individual farmer may be leading the way for other producers. Farmer participates in watershed councils, conservation districts, or other landscape activities promoted by state agencies, farming organizations, non-profits, or similar groups.

Humane Treatment of Animals: Please answer Yes **(Y)** or No **(N)** to the following.
Whidbey Island producers and consumers are interested in animals being raised on Whidbey Island that have adequate food, water and healthy living conditions.

_____ There are no livestock on my farm.
_____ Animals are checked daily for symptoms of stress.
_____ All animals are maintained with a normal daylight cycle, using a minimum of 7 hrs. of light per day.
_____ All legal requirements are met for space/stocking rate, and size and configuration of indoor shelters.
_____ Animals can stand, turn around and stretch without difficulty in all housing situations.
_____ Free access to outdoors is available at all times.
_____ Outdoor area has shelter from heat, cold and wind.
_____ All animals are free to engage in natural behaviors.
_____ All animals have access to adequate feed or grazing.
_____ Veterinary records are maintained for all animals.
_____ Facilities for isolating sick animals are available and adequate to allow normal movement.

Manufacturing Standards & Product Quality

☐**Legal requirements**: Product meets all legal requirements of Washington State Department of Agriculture, Island County Health Department for licensing or USDA as appropriate for processing. Licenses are displayed.
☐**Food Safety**: Good Manufacturing Practices or HACCP plan in place and being followed in compliance with Washington State Health Department Standards or as appropriate to each particular processing license.
☐**Packaging:** Packaging is clean and attractive.
Whidbey Island agricultural ingredients for manufactured products: Manufactured products must contain at least 50% agricultural ingredients that are grown on Whidbey Island. EX: jams and jellies contain more sugar than fruit. (This does not apply to the production of plants or animals.)
☐**Product liability insurance**: Manufacturer maintains liability insurance for products being sold.

APPLICANTS MUST FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING: My products that will carry the Whidbey Island Brand are:

	Product	Method of Display
1.	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____

I AGREE THAT THE WHIDBEY ISLAND GROWN BRAND IS STRENGTHENED BY MAINTAINING A MINIMAL LEVEL OF STANDARDS AND I CERTIFY THAT THE ANSWERS PROVIDED ABOVE ARE TRUE AND CORRECT TO THE BEST OF MY UNDERSTANDING AND UNDERSTAND THAT MY FARM MAY BE RANDOM AUDITED BY A THIRD PARTY AUDITOR TO VERIFY THE INFORMATION PROVIDED; AND, I WILL ALLOW REASONABLE ACCESS TO MY FARM FOR THE PURPOSES OF THE AUDIT. FURTHERMORE, I AGREE TO CEASE USE OF ALL WHIDBEY ISLAND GROWN BRANDED MATERIALS SHOULD THE INFORMATION PROVIDED PROVE TO BE INCORRECT. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

_____
Name of Farm/Manufacturer

_____ _____
Signature Date

ATTACHMENT 1

Prohibited Pesticides

Whidbey Island Grown members may not use the following pesticides (in decreasing order of acute toxicity): (Criteria for Prohibition: Laboratory tests results as supplied to the US EPA for product registration-show the LD 50 for acute mammalian toxicity is 30 mg/kg or lower.)

Please check if the following pesticides are used on your farm/ranch:

Check if Used	Active Ingredient	Chemical Class	Use	Acute Toxicity LD_{50} (mg/Kg)	Common Trade Names	Common Manufacturer
	Aldicarb	Carbamate	1	0.5	Temik.	Rhone-Poulenc Ag. Co.
	Phorate	Organophosphate (OP)	1	2	Phorate 10G, Rampart, Thimet.	American Cyanamid Co.
	Terbufos	OP	1	2	Counter.	American Cyanamid Co.
	Disulfoton	OP	1	3	Disyston, Disystox.	Sanex, Inc.
	Methyl Parathion	OP	1	6	Parathion, Metaphos, Penncap-M	Drexel Chemical Co.
	Oxamyl	Carbamate	I,N	6	Blade, Oxamil, Vydate	Dupont Ag. Products
	Ethyl Parathion	OP	I	6.8	Niran or Phoskil	Cheminova
	Carbofuran	Carbamate	I	8	Furadan, Rampart.	FMC Corp.
	Methyl Bromide	Not available	I	15	Brom-o-Gas, Bromomethane	Agriliance
	Fenamiphos	OP	N	15	Nemacur, Phenamiphos, and formulations	Miles, Inc
	Azinphos-Methyl	OP	I	16	Guthion	Miles, Inc
	Methomyl, metomil & mesomile	Carbamate	I	17	Lannate	Dupont Ag. Products
	Ethoprop	OP	I	26	Mocap	Bayer CropScience
	Strychnine	Not Available	R	30	Sometimes Nux Vomica	Many

Use Key: Insecticide = 1 Nematicide = N rodenticide = R

Check the following as applicable:

_____ Prohibited pesticides are not used on the farm/ranch.

_____ Prohibited pesticides are used on the farm/ranch, but crops receiving theses pesticides will not be sold as Whidbey Island Grown products.