

## Agriculture: The side Unnoticed

Imagine this: you're hovering over Whatcom County looking down at the glorious landscape below. You see the prospering cities of Bellingham and the others around it, but you also notice one other thing: the rugged terrain of fields and forest dividing the county into patches of greens and browns. They seem like nothing, but they actually contribute to a large part of our society – the agricultural part. Agriculture is all around us – every day in every way.

Agriculture is intertwined within your everyday life! You arise every morning to prepare for work. You take a shower, put on clothes, and eat breakfast. You then drive your car to your destination, eat lunch, work more, and then go home again. Here you do whatever and have dinner. It takes agriculture to do or have many of these things. The food comes from farms – the meat from animals bred for it, the plants from the hundreds of acres planted yearly, and the dairy products coming from the numerous dairy cows milked twice daily to give us what we all take for granted. The paper we use every day comes from trees cut down and processed to become paper. How about our lighting or heating? These take electricity. Most of our electricity comes from dams down south on the Columbia River and the windmills in Eastern Washington. This strategy for power is agriculture. Our clothes we wear come from plants and animal fibers like wool that are made into cloth. Most of our houses are built of wood – cut by loggers then brought to you. These are only a few that fit into agriculture criteria.

Agriculture is everywhere in our everyday lives. It's the air we breathe. So don't underestimate the world around you. It's a large part of who you are. It's Agriculture!