

2025 Carnation Farms

IMPACT REPORT



where the past
feeds the future



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Letter from the Director of Regenerative Agriculture

“2025 was our 117th season as a farm and our 9th as a nonprofit sustainable farm, and one thing is consistent: outcomes from regenerative agriculture practices are not linear.”



Thank you for picking up the Carnation Farms 2025 Impact Report.

We have a lot to share about what we've discovered since the end of 2024. From early spring harvests to mid-December floods, we continually respond to the unexpected, changing with the seasons while staying true to our regenerative principles.

2025 was our 117th season as a farm and our 9th as a nonprofit sustainable farm, and one thing is consistent: outcomes from regenerative agriculture practices are not linear. Areas managed through grazing have seen increased biodiversity, but reduced soil organic matter. Contrary to expectations, fields that were tilled saw increased organic matter in the soil. Even with these surprises, our crops flourished with less fertilizer application, which we take to be a sign that our soil improvements are working. We have increased livestock in our lowlands to increase the impact of regenerative agriculture across more acres and increase our farmstand offerings.

This season we also increased our community and regenerative agriculture programming, co-hosting training sessions with FARMpreneurs, The Tenacious Farmers Exchange, and the James Beard Foundation's Chef Bootcamp for Policy and Change. We launched a Rotational Grazing series that brought together both homesteaders and professional farmers to learn about pasture and livestock management. And we love what happens at our Barn Dances, because sometimes you just gotta take off those gardening gloves and boogie.

Our culinary programs also expanded in 2025. Farm Dinners, new farmstand menus and pop-ups, and hands-on workshops kept the culinary team busy. We have expanded our network of regional producers, whose products complement what is produced on the farm. Our new farmstand loyalty program aims to increase accessibility to delicious, local food produced through regenerative practices for our neighbors and visitors.

Agriculture, community building, and culinary programming are not separate at Carnation Farms. Relationships are the key to everything we do.

As part of a holistic approach to regenerative agriculture, we continue to expand our offerings for farmers, eaters, chefs, and neighbors.

When people support local agriculture, they are building local economies and strengthening communities. Your continued support ensures that Carnation Farms will remain a gathering place for the Snoqualmie Valley to celebrate regenerative food and farming.

Eric Popp



Our Story

For more than a century, Carnation Farms has served as a living laboratory—honoring the lessons of the past while continually innovating toward a more resilient future. As the largest farm in King County, with 818 acres, we hold a responsibility to be stewards of the land, our animals, and our community.

In 2025, we clarified our direction with a renewed mission and vision, articulating our ambitions for the future while honoring the deep roots that have shaped the farm since 1908.



Mission and Vision

Carnation Farms is a certified-organic nonprofit farm and community hub that applies regenerative principles to strengthen and transform our food system.

We envision a thriving, resilient regional food system rooted in regenerative farming, humane animal care, and vibrant rural economies.

Leadership Team

Paul Shoemaker, Executive Director

Eric Popp, Director of Regenerative Agriculture

Kristen Schumacher, Director of Culinary Operations & Education

Curt Gauthier, Facilities Director

Jina Salcedo, Financial Controller

Alex Ingalls, Marketing Manager

Mandi Fillmore, HR Manager

Building a Community Hub

Each year, Carnation Farms welcomes thousands of people onto the land, from neighbors across the Soqualmie Valley to visitors across the region, and farm and food professionals across the country. Our community comprises individuals and families, farmers, chefs, food entrepreneurs, and partner organizations supporting our local community. Our programming engages each of these communities with the same goal: to produce food and feed people, building awareness and community. We strive to do this through participatory engagement, creating spaces for participant-led learning and adjusting our offerings based on community feedback.

We bring together people pursuing regenerative agriculture and regional food systems and create spaces for them to share their stories, expertise, and knowledge. For example, we hosted the Tenacious Farmers Exchange, where farmers connected to discuss strategies for thriving in the face of climate change. By building community networks, we find our niche, too. When we understand what others have to offer, we can tailor our programming to what we are uniquely positioned to provide. That's why we offer classes such as Rotational Grazing, which are otherwise difficult to find in the Snoqualmie Valley.



Former Community Manager, Olivia Longstaff, and Livestock Manager, Alex Hagiepetros, staff the info table at our 2025 Harvest Market

Responding to our neighbors' requests we made the farm more accessible in 2025. To support our goal of building a shared regional identity, we hosted Barn Dances, vendor markets, and culinary workshops on the farm, open to everyone. At these events, participants can learn about regenerative agriculture through farm tours, staffed informational tables, and live storytelling.

Through a combination of education and social events, we engage the public and encourage open dialogue between the farm and the Valley community. These exchanges are a critical component of our goals of regeneration—to solve problems together for a broad community impact.



A group of guests shares a toast at our November Farmview Dinner



Local vendor, Thistle + Ember, displays their wares at our Harvest market

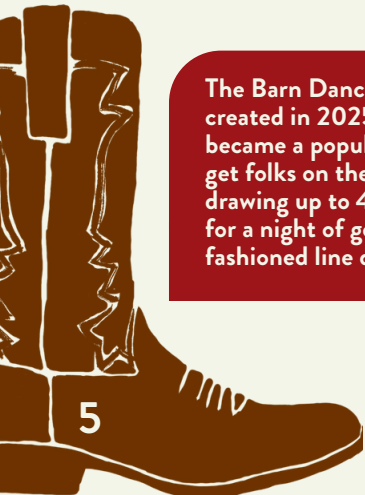


Former Community Manager, Olivia Longstaff, joins the fun at our first Barn Dance



Our butcher, Thomas Coss, leads a workshop on how to prepare meat like a pro

By the Numbers



The Barn Dance was created in 2025 and became a popular way to get folks on the farm, drawing up to 400 people for a night of good old fashioned line dancing.

Program Spotlights



FARMpreneurs

In 2025, Carnation Farms hosted a regional FARMpreneurs Strategic Sprint – a boot camp for community farmers to develop strategic plans, leadership skills, and collaborative networks to become changemakers in sustainable food systems. Carnation Farms was one of seven sites across the country offering this program in 2025. By offering room and board, Carnation Farms helped the program attract participants who might not have otherwise been able to attend. As FARMpreneurs share in their impact report¹: “Scratch-cooked meals made with local ingredients and love sustained us during the long days of learning and application.”



“The week at FARMpreneurs was an instrumental step in the business development we are doing at Caney Fork Farms. It enabled me as a leader to develop new and helpful entrepreneurial vocabulary, as well as the toolsets, skillsets, and mindsets needed to achieve our desired outcomes. The supportive environment of accountability and compassion led to garnering the internal excitement and support needed for our next three years.”

Asher Wright, Caney Fork Farms, Tennessee

¹The 2025 FARMpreneurs Impact Report is available to view at <https://www.farmpreneurs.org/impact>

Seasonal Markets

Carnation Farms hosts the largest market in the Snoqualmie Valley, each featuring 35-50 local artisans. We curate mission-aligned makers who sell goods crafted with care, like textiles, wooden spoons, soaps, and more. While intense flooding led to the cancellation of our 2025 holiday market, 2,500 visitors attended our spring and harvest markets. Through farm and history tours and staffed informational booths, our seasonal markets offer a glimpse into what regenerative agriculture looks like in the region.



“Carnation Farms is the hub for regenerative agriculture in our community. Their Spring Market opens the historic property to both vendors and community members alike. Beyond just being a market, the event showcases the farm as a whole with site tours and food produced using ingredients grown on site, ensuring that their farming practices and culinary experiences can be shared with everyone. Every year the market and the attendance grow, and along with it our pride in the bounty the Snoqualmie Valley has to offer.”

Jim Ribail, Mayor of the City of Carnation, WA

Rotational Grazing Series

Our Rotational Grazing classes aim to expand capacity for regenerative agriculture among local land stewards. The four-class series with 29 participants took farmers, homesteaders, and conservationists through a season of rotational grazing, combining classroom-style learning with in-field application. The series teaches land stewards how to identify and measure what pastures need across the seasons; the connections among soil, forage, and animal impact; and the equipment needed to succeed.



“The hands-on exercises were beneficial and helped to solidify the information presented. The staff were knowledgeable and answered questions effectively. I would recommend this grazing workshop to any livestock owner interested in improving their grazing practices.”

Paul Borne, Pierce Conservation District, Key Peninsula, Gig Harbor, Islands Farm Resource Manager

Creating a Culinary Center

Our Culinary team's work sits at a critical nexus between regenerative agriculture and community.

Everything we do on the farm—from crop planning to selecting the breeds and designing feeding systems for our animals—is carefully considered for nutrition, flavor, and a superior eating experience. Through flavor and quality, we build customer interest and support for regenerative agriculture.

Each winter, Director of Regenerative Agriculture Eric Popp and Culinary Director Chef Kristen Watts Schumacher reflect on the products grown, raised, and transformed into food the previous year: what grew well and what didn't, and why? What tasted best? What tweaks to crop selection and where and how our animals graze might improve the nutrition and flavor profiles of our ingredients? What do we want to experiment with? A new season of farm and menu planning can then begin.

We connect our community to the origins of their food and how it is produced by creating a distribution channel for regeneratively grown produce and animal products. When we're unable to offer food made here, we source ingredients from a network of local farms to showcase the variety of products produced in the region and contribute to building a regional food economy (see map).

Farm Dinner Sourcing

Farm Dinner ingredients are sourced from a variety of local, mission-aligned producers when they don't come directly from our farm.



Grain

Produce

Beverages

Specialty



Our “full cycle” approach is an intentional component of our regeneration and culinary philosophies. Through farm dinners, chef retreats, and signature products, we invite people to taste the story of the Snoqualmie Valley: the soil, the seasons, and the many hands that bring good food to the table.



Signature Items

Carnation Farms' signature items transform farm products into delicious food that customers can eat at home, celebrating the seasonal abundance of the valley. Our expanded offerings in 2025 included more than 50 value-added products, including beef bolognese, fresh pastas, cured and smoked deli meats, spice mixes, hot sauce, soups, and baked goods. These items are sold at our historic Farmstand and at regular Pop-Ups. In 2025, these included fried chicken, pastrami sandwiches, and smashburgers from our Belted Kingshires. We also launched a new packaged granola, selling approximately 1,400 bags in grocery stores across the region as our first value-added consumer packaged good.



Farm Dinners

In 2025, we hosted 13 farm dinners attended by over 1,000 guests that celebrated nutritious food, thoughtful ways of preparing it, and following the journey from field to table. The series provides a platform to showcase foods created through regenerative principles. Through live storytelling about our regenerative practices during the dining experience, we help deepen interest in these practices and healthy food system principles. The Farm Dinners also stimulate the regional agriculture and food economy. Additionally, last year, two off-site farm dinners supported agricultural non-profits that help farmers in our valley, the SnoValley Tilth and Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance. For each farm dinner, we source ingredients from our farm and other regional producers. The map on the previous page showcases the producers we source from in Washington.



Connecting Chefs to Local Food

For the second year, we hosted two James Beard Bootcamps for Policy and Change, each bringing together 30 chefs from across the country for a week-long training in policy advocacy for regenerative agriculture, equitable food distribution, and food waste reduction. Our July Farm Dinner featured two alumni chefs from the bootcamp, Sonya Cote and Blue Adams, giving them a platform to showcase their culinary talent and the opportunity to work with fresh, local ingredients. We also hosted the Seattle Culinary Academy farm retreat for the second time, where student chefs experienced “a day in the life” on a farm. Our goal with these programs, which we will continue to offer, is to deepen chefs' awareness and appreciation for where their food comes from, developing a foundation for sustainable food procurement throughout their careers.

“Spending time at Carnation Farm is a powerful reminder that agriculture, when done with intent, can restore more than it extracts. You can feel that the land is not just being worked, it's being listened to. From soil health to animal stewardship to education, Carnation is a living example of what a resilient food system can look like.

Being invited as a guest chef for the Dinner in the Field last July, after participating in the James Beard Foundation Chef Bootcamp, made the experience even more meaningful. Cooking in that landscape, alongside other chefs committed to advocacy and regeneration, created memories that will stay with me for a lifetime. It was a rare opportunity to connect the work of the land directly to the plate and to the broader conversation about the future of food.”

Chef Sonya Cote, Eden East Restaurant, Austin, Texas

Regenerative Agriculture

Regenerative agriculture is a holistic, outcome-based land management philosophy that restores soil health, increases biodiversity, improves water cycling, and sequesters atmospheric carbon. It moves beyond sustainability to actively rehabilitate degraded ecosystems by minimizing soil disturbance, maintaining living roots, and integrating livestock.¹



Building on this definition of regenerative agriculture, we focus on integrating animal and crop systems and embracing innovation that supports long-term soil health and food system resilience. Knowing which practices are best at building healthy soils requires an experimental approach, so we regularly test, tweak, and rethink how we operate. **Adaptation is the point: there is no universal recipe for regeneration**, just principles that we tailor as we gather information through data and careful observation.

For the soil to regenerate, we rotate fields through different combinations of production crops, cover crops, grazing, and rest, depending on what each field needs and what it can provide.² More than 60 crops are grown across the farm, rotated from year to year to ensure that no single field is depleted of specific nutrients and to promote healthy soils. Crop diversity also helps build resilience to climate change and pest pressure by not counting on the success of any single crop.

We use cover crops to build living root systems in the soil: rye, clover, winter peas, and triticale are selected for their tolerance to floods and palatability to sheep. Our animals are moved regularly to fields where they receive optimal nutrition and can desirably impact pastures. We are currently trialing several breeds of cattle and sheep to find those most suited to our region's mild climate and abundant grasses, including Belted Kingshire, Shorthorn, and Angus x Shorthorn cows; and Avondale, Romney, Finn, BFL, Clun Forest, and Katahdin sheep. Critically, we do our best to let fields rest after intensive cultivation or grazing, allowing plants and soil to regenerate.

¹Adapted definition of regenerative agriculture from the [World Economic Forum](#)
²The [2024 Impact Report](#) offers a more detailed overview of regenerative agriculture at Carnation Farms

2025 Accomplishments

Increasing Stock Count

In 2025, we increased the number of animals in our herds to improve our pastures and boost revenue. Grazing suppresses undesirable plant species, adds nutrients to the soil web, and aerates the soil, thereby increasing biodiversity. With larger herds, we can graze more of our land base and increase the impact of grazing before periods of regenerative rest. To build grazing capacity, we sold breeding cows to a partner farm. This allowed us to expand and focus on sheep breeding, and will help us to finish more cattle on our pastures. Consistent increases in our pastures' Ecological Health Index score indicate that these improvements are having a positive impact across more acres than in previous seasons. In addition to enhancing our capacity for land stewardship, larger herds also increase the revenue stream for our livestock enterprise and move us closer to becoming a financially sustainable operation.

Reducing Fertilizer Use

Fertilizer was reduced to move closer to a closed-loop fertility cycle. Though our fertilizer (pelleted chicken manure) is an animal waste product, we strive to depend on the fertility produced on-site. Reduced dependence on external fertilizer means less runoff into our streams, fewer external inputs into our soils, and less labor per bed. We believe the work we've done to care for our soil through cover cropping, crop rotations, and regenerative grazing has helped us rely more on the natural fertility in our soils to produce quality crops and livestock.

2025 Challenges

The farm experienced three key challenges in 2025, impacting some anticipated progress.



Flooding

The Snoqualmie River saw its highest levels in more than a decade, leading to intense flooding on the farm. We are learning from the flood's impacts and plan to adjust our practices to prevent erosion and the buildup of debris in future floods. In 2026, we will plant buffers to prevent the movement of debris across our fields, limit late-season tilling in areas of high flood risk, and line the riverbank with flood resilient perennials that will grow harvestable fruit in their first year of growth.



Elk Population

Every elk that frequents our pastures is one less cow or three less sheep we can raise. 150 elk were present on our pastures during peak hunting season in 2025, with an enormous impact on our livestock program's productivity and profitability. The wildlife section details our approach to managing this issue.



The Market

In 2025, we increased production of greens and herbs for the wholesale market. Relying on distributors resulted in a low-margin enterprise for the farm. In response, we will be increasing direct-to-consumer sales in 2026 through our farmstand, farmers' markets, and direct-to-restaurant distribution.

By the Numbers

694%

increase in ewes (female sheep) grazing our pastures – from 17 ewes in 2024 to 135 in 2025

158

lambs raised – a 586% increase from 23 lambs in 2024

100%

Elimination of fertilizer from greens and annual herb production

230

acres of pasture grazed – a 15% increase from 200 acres in 2024

50%

reduction in fertilizer for tomato production

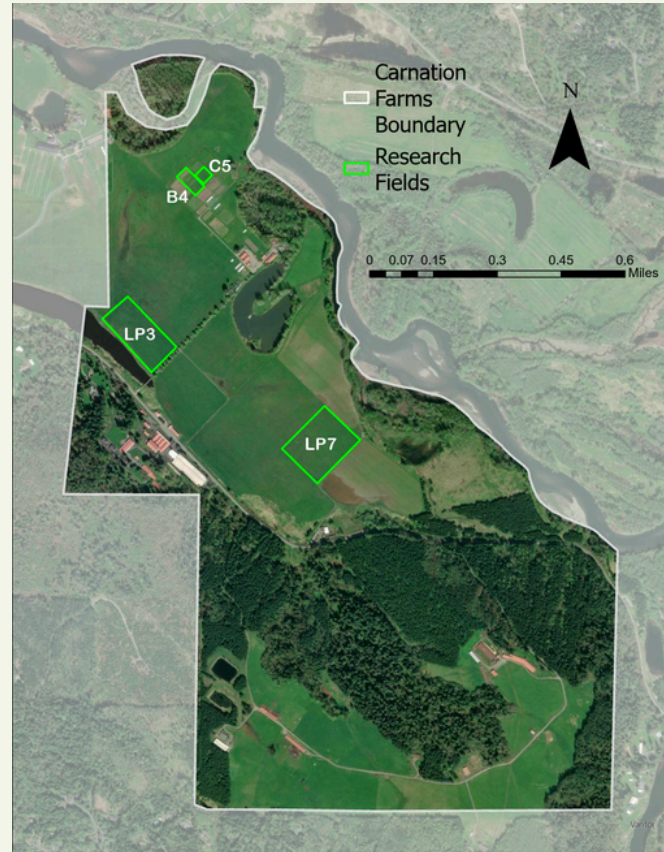
Assessing Soil Health

At Carnation Farms, we use a combination of close observation, soil health data, and ecological health metrics to assess when we're successfully building healthy soils on the farm – and when specific fields need more careful attention.

In 2024 and 2025, we used humus content to measure soil health—and to tell if our practices are regenerating the land. Humus is the dark, granular, and mostly decomposed component of soil that represents the buildup of long-lasting organic matter over time. Soils with high humus content supply more nutrients to plants and the animals that feed on them. Humus also boosts climate resilience by increasing the soil's ability to hold onto moisture during droughts and prevent erosion during intense floods, like the ones that damaged the Snoqualmie Valley in December 2025.

In addition to humus content, we also used Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) to measure how our practices are impacting pasture health. EOV testing is conducted annually by Savory Hub, a third-party organization that offers land monitoring and consulting services.³ It provides an overall snapshot of ecosystem health by observing key indicators of four different ecosystem processes: water cycle, mineral cycle, energy flow, and community dynamics. Indicators like which species of grasses are present on the pasture, how many microfauna are visible in the soil, and how quickly organic matter decomposes in the soil speak to whether these four ecosystem processes are functioning well. Based on these and other indicators, each field receives an ecological health index (EHI), providing an overall sense of pasture health.

Measuring soil and ecosystem health with humus content and ecological outcome verification can inform key questions about our management practices. Because the data are collected from production fields—and not from tightly controlled scientific experiments—we combine it with observation to inform farm decision-making, rather than to conclude the effectiveness of specific practices for all farms.



Rest and grazing of covered fields can buffer the impacts of tilling on soil health.

In our third year of observation, we noticed that annual crop production and tilling in quick succession can degrade soils in our fields. Meanwhile, allowing the field to rest with occasional grazing of cover crops led to improvements. Soil and ecological health data support the conclusions we drew from our observations: we believe pauses in production, coupled with intentional grazing of cover-cropped fields, can help mitigate the impacts of frequent tilling on soil health – while still allowing us to produce quality food.

Field B4 was tilled five times at a shallow depth, cover-cropped, and rotationally grazed in 2023. In 2024, it was tilled, used in vegetable production, and cover-cropped. In 2025, half of this field was planted with lettuce and herbs, after which the full field was tilled and cover-cropped. Between 2023 and 2025, this field's humus content steadily decreased (-.2 percentage points each year), also evident in the ecological health index score (-30 points from 2023-2024, -15 points from 2024-2025). Based on our observations, we believe the declines in ecological and soil health can be attributed to consistent tilling every year without time for rest.

Field C5 was heavily tilled, cover-cropped, and allowed to rest in 2023; rotationally grazed in 2024; and served as a production field for lettuce and annual herbs and left to self-cover with chickweed at the end of 2025. It saw a large increase in humus content between 2023-2024 (+0.5 percentage points), followed by relative stability from 2024-2025 (+0.1 percentage points). Unfortunately, EHI data was not collected for this field in 2025, but it will be in 2026. Based on our observations, we believe that rest and rotational grazing of the cover-cropped field allowed the soil to regenerate between tilling events.

Haying and Grazing Impact Soil Health

Two fields' management histories present an opportunity to test the ecological effects of haying vs. grazing on organic pasture. Before 2023, LP3 and LP7 had been consistently hayed for decades. From 2023 onwards, we stopped haying and began grazing one field (LP3), and continued haying the other (LP7). Neither field has received a fertilizer application in more than a decade.

We expected the grazed field to have higher humus content than the hayed field because grazing promotes nutrient cycling, whereas haying removes grass and therefore nutrients from the system. Contrary to our expectations, the grazed field had lower humus content in 2025 (LP3, 3.5%) than the hayed field (LP7, 4.1%). However, the EHI scores did align with our expectations: between 2023 and 2025, the grazed field had a higher and generally improving EHI score (LP3 improved from 15 to 25), whereas the hayed field had a lower, though still improving EHI score (LP7 improved from -30 to 0).

Field	Practices			Humus Content			Ecological Health Index Score		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
B4	Heavily tilled, cover-cropped, rotationally grazed	Heavily tilled, planted with diverse vegetables, cover-cropped	Production of lettuce and herbs on half the field; the full field was heavily tilled and cover-cropped	3.70%	3.50%	3.30%	0	-30	-45
C5	Heavily tilled, cover-cropped	Grazed five times	Production field with lettuce and herbs, then self-covered	2.80%	3.30%	3.40%	Not measured		

Table 1: Humus and EOV data from B4 and C5 suggest that rest and grazing of covered fields can buffer the impacts of tilling on soil health

Field	Practices			Humus Content			Ecological Health Index Score		
	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025	2023	2024	2025
LP3	Grazed once	Grazed twice and mowed	Grazed once	3.70%	3.70%	3.50%	15	10	25
LP7	Hayed	Hayed	Hayed	Not measured		4.10%	-30	0	0

Humus content and EHI scores are telling us different stories because of the additional indicators captured by EOV testing. LP3 had a higher 2025 EHI score than LP7 because there was more live forage for animals to graze on, and manure was decomposing into the soil at a faster rate.

Our data suggest that the grazed field was more ecologically healthy, despite having lower humus content, due to the availability of vegetation and faster nutrient cycling from animal manure. This shows that if we only look at humus content, we might be missing the overall picture of how healthy the ecosystem is. We will continue using these holistic measures of ecosystem health, in addition to humus content, to learn how our landscape is progressing.

Holistic Animal Stewardship

Pasture Management

Healthy pastures mean healthy animals, and vice-versa. We follow a pattern of short-term, high-intensity grazing followed by long rest periods to allow the grasses to regenerate. Grazing occurs right before grasses go to seed, ensuring resilient grasses with deep roots. Composted manure from our barn is also applied to our upper pastures to provide additional nutrients.

Rotational Grazing Series

Land stewards learn about best practices in pasture management through our rotational grazing series. The series builds local capacity for regenerative agriculture.

Managing Animal Lifecycles

The way we care for animals is aligned with their life stage. We feed ewes barley and peas before lambing to supplement nutrition, and bring ewes and their lambs onto lush pasture in early spring to enhance milk production. When it's time for lambs to start eating grasses on their own, we keep them in place on a pasture and bring the ewes far away to reduce the stress of separation.

Meat & Greet

Participants of all ages can interact with our cows and sheep, meet the farmers who raise them, and learn about the importance of regenerative agriculture.

Ethical Harvest

We extend compassionate care towards our animals through the harvest process. Due to regulations, selling meat shares directly to customers is the only way we can harvest animals on-site, reducing the complexity and stress of transportation on the animals. Some animals are sent off-site for USDA processing, which broadens the outlets where our meat can be sold. To reduce the stress of transit, we familiarize the animals with the trailers used during transport.

Breed Selection

We are in an experimental phase, trialing breeds that work best on our landscape and for our culinary goals. We need animals that can thrive among wildlife in our moist soils that yield a delicious product.

Farmstand, Pop-ups, & Farm Dinners

Customers can purchase products made from our animals at the farmstand, eat hot smashburgers from our Belted Kingshires at Pop-Ups, or attend farm dinners that spotlight our livestock and produce. Through live storytelling and informational pamphlets, we integrate the story of how our animals are raised through every event and sales channel, so people can connect to the animals that nourish them.

Butchery Classes

Participants learn about breeds and regenerative practices and experience firsthand how grazing contributes to flavor and texture.

Whole Animal Utilization

To show respect to the animals we raise, we use every part of the animal. Incorporating organs, bones, and collagen-rich cuts deepens flavor and offers greater nourishment. Our signature items that showcase this practice are beef bolognese and meatballs. Recipes on our website teach home cooks how use all parts of an animal in everyday meals.

Meat Shares

Customers can purchase an entire animal during the season and receive beef or lamb shares at harvest, fostering a continuous relationship with the farm.

The way we care for our animals demonstrates our holistic approach to regeneration, weaving together land and animal stewardship, culinary culture, and community education.

Managing Wildlife

We continue to partner with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and Stewardship Partners to improve the farm's habitats and the balance between wildlife and farming. Their recommendations for best management practices are then approved by our in-house Wildlife Committee, composed of multiple stakeholders including local non-profits, agriculturalists, and neighbors.



For many years, Carnation Farms was a game reserve, meaning hunting was prohibited. The reserve status, combined with other external factors, allowed many native animal populations to flourish. But without hunting, the elk herds grew to levels that put pressure on farm production and displaced other wildlife like Black-tailed deer. Such ecosystem imbalances harm the environment through overgrazing and create competition for resources between wildlife and agricultural production. Ultimately, without the reintroduction of wolves, our wildlife management partners have advised us to address elk overpopulation through human intervention.

2025 was the first season in over 50 years that hunting was allowed at Carnation Farms.

Although it will take years to bring the elk population in line with the carrying capacity of the region, our first aim is to discourage elk from inhabiting our open pasture. In the summer of 2025, we used “hazing,” a non-lethal, humane method that moves animals through deterrents that create negative associations for the animals. This was followed by fall and winter hunting. The results have been positive: Elk are now spending more time in the riparian and forested areas.



Because human activities like overhunting have harmed ecosystems, providing habitat for native animals is an important part of land stewardship. Balancing our responsibility to feed people and provide habitat requires a collaborative approach with local entities and neighboring farms to ensure broad control of our region's carrying capacity and shared responsibility.

Looking Ahead

Each season brings new surprises, and as we look ahead, we know we'll have to adjust as circumstances and opportunities arise. We enter each new season asking not just "What do we want to grow?" but "What will grow?" We look across our community and ask, "What are the best ways for us to engage and contribute?"



In our agriculture program, we will expand our livestock capacity, leveraging our new cow/calf partnership to bring more cattle onto the farm's organic pastures. Our animal care team will breed more sheep that perform best on our landscape, leading to healthy pastures and high-quality meat. We will quantify the effects of our practices on soil and ecological health through continued soil carbon and Ecological Outcome Verification (EOV) testing, as well as new soil microbiology measurements. Key conclusions from these tests will be made public to share our learnings and questions with those who practice, support, or fund regenerative agriculture.



2026 will bring a renewed focus on nutrient and water cycling. In 2025, more than 2.5 million gallons of water were recycled from events and facilities and reused to irrigate plants. Moving forward, zero waste efforts will expand through composting: a new program will transform kitchen scraps and animal waste into fertility on our fields, reducing reliance on fertilizer from external sources.



Our crops program will be adjusting away from wholesale markets and towards farmers' markets and other direct-to-consumer sales channels to better engage and involve our customers with the values associated with regenerative farming. And for the first time, our crops program will offer government-funded, paid internships for military service members transitioning back into civilian life. This program will provide educational opportunities and dirt therapy for interns, and we will help place the participants in positions throughout the regenerative supply chain after their internship.



In 2026, we will increase monitoring and interactions with elk, with a greater focus on testing nonlethal hazing solutions.



Our culinary team will oversee the construction of a butcher counter to deepen our commitment to nose-to-tail cooking through prepared foods, farm dinners, and shared recipes. More hot food will also be offered at the farmstand, where we will continue to expand sourcing from mission-aligned producers, while developing new products of our own. We plan to grow our catering and events business lines and sell more consumer packaged goods in regional grocery stores, expanding our granola line and adding sauces and spices.



Community outreach and education will expand in 2026. Our farmer and chef training partnerships will continue to educate and feed participants, and in 2026, we will welcome a cohort of the Climate Farm School for the first time. Neighbors in the Snoqualmie Valley and beyond will be able to participate in regenerative agriculture through farm-to-table dinners and culinary workshops, or enjoy the farm through Barn Dances, seasonal markets, history tours, and more.

We are constantly learning by doing. We will continue to adapt our regenerative approach based on feedback from community members and signals from the ecosystem. We look forward to sharing how the farm evolves in 2026 and beyond!

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Jim Ribail, Mayor of Carnation

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

FARMpreneurs

The James Beard Foundation

Understanding Ag

Sonya Cote, Chef & founder of Store House Market Eatery + Eden East Farm

Bleu Adams, Chef at The Continental Restaurant

Seattle Culinary Academy

The Savory Hub & UVE

King County Conservation District

King County

YOUR SUPPORT HAS AN IMPACT

As a nonprofit farm, we can't bring this vision to life without the support of our community and generous donors. Through farm visits, shared meals, hands-on educational programs, culinary experiences, and regional partnerships, we welcome our neighbors, partners, and patrons to be part of the journey.

Soil Health improvements will increase over time. We are focusing on building resilient soils and measuring improvements to soil organic matter, plant biodiversity, and ecosystem health.

Habitat Restoration will continue through land & waterway stewardship and wildlife management to address flooding while increasing biodiversity.

Crop & Rangeland Preservation will increase biodiversity in plant species within the pastures and adjacent reforestation through expanded rotational grazing, cover cropping at scale, and reducing fertilizer use.

Building a Community Hub will anchor the regenerative food supply chain at Carnation Farms, benefitting the broader Puget Sound region economically and ecologically.

Farm-to-table Experiences & Educational Events bring our regenerative mission to life. Through hands-on workshops, culinary programming, and our farmstand shelves, we connect field to plate and expand regional capacity to support regenerative agriculture.

We would also like to thank our philanthropic partners for believing in our mission and our team. Together, we can continue growing the farm as both an agricultural center and a vibrant community table. Funders' contributions and customers' patronage support our progress in these areas every day.

www.CarnationFarms.org



get involved!





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