

# Jefferson County Comprehensive Plan and Agricultural Preservation & Land Use Plan



## Agriculture Worksheet

### Focus Group Members:

We need your help understanding the Agriculture Issues and Opportunities for shaping the future of Jefferson County.

Use this worksheet to review the Issues and Opportunities identified through the initial public engagement opportunities. The conversation starters identified within this worksheet will be used during the meeting, so think through these items, provide your notes, and be ready to share!

Please bring this sheet with you to the focus group meeting or send it to [pchellevoid@srfconsulting.com](mailto:pchellevoid@srfconsulting.com) if you are unable to attend!

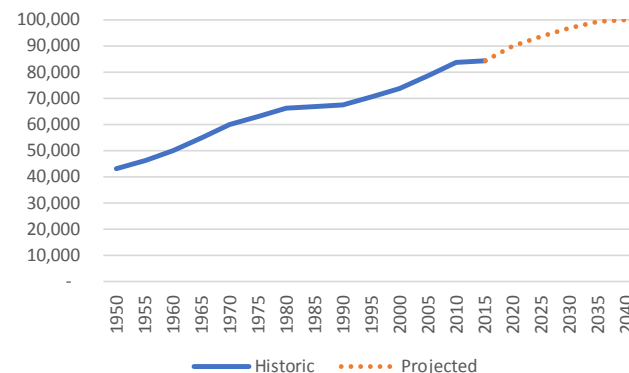
What role can/should the County serve to promote and preserve agriculture?

How do you see farming and agriculture today? What changes should be made in the future? How can the County plan for and accommodate for the changes?

### Initial Public Outreach Themes

- Organic vs conventional farms
- Solar farms
- Changes in agricultural and sustainable practices
- Agricultural scalability
- Manure management
- Aquaculture/aquafarming
- Rural Residential development
- Opportunities for educational programs, innovative farming techniques
- Farmer Council – cover crops
- Small Scale Agriculture - Local Foods
- Exploration of Agri-hoods

### County Population 1950 - 2040



### Agricultural Census Data

	2007	2012	2017
Number of Farms	1,434	1,225	1,098
Land in Farms (Acres)	244,238	227,901	221,335
Farm by Size (Acres)			
Less than 10 Ac	105	95	106
10 to 49 Ac	463	390	350
50 to 179 Ac	507	410	331
180 to 499 Ac	269	203	211
500 to 999 Ac	53	50	61
Greater than 1,000 Ac	37	40	39

Are there opportunities to support small scale and organic farms to provide local foods for restaurants and farmers markets?

How can commodity agriculture and small scale agriculture work together?

Is there a role for agricultural tourism and education?

What climate change topics, policies, and initiatives need to be considered specific to Jefferson County?

How should agriculture areas be prioritized and protected from encroaching housing developments?

What concerns do you have with manure management or other fertilization spraying?

In reviewing initial outreach themes to date, are there any other themes that need to be considered in these plans?

Other thoughts?