Bob Johnson and his wife, Laura, own the Johnson Farm on Ebey Island. Bob’s grandparents, Iver and Caroline Johnson bought their 166-acre homestead in 1887 and expanded it to 400 acres. They built the barn in 1930. Until recently, Bob and Laura gave educational tours to families; now they run a u-pick produce operation.

Laura Johnson, co-owner of the Johnson Farm on Ebey Island

The Johnson barn originally was built in 1929, but it burned down and was rebuilt on the same site in 1930.

Horses boarded at the Johnson Farm on Ebey Island
Carleton Farm *(West of Lake Stevens)*

Reid and Mary Carleton sell most of what they grow on their 60-acre Sunnyside farm at their produce stand, west of Lake Stevens.

Toni Simpson and other Carleton Farm employees sell a huge variety of produce, both locally picked and imported, in the former hay barn. The Carletons started selling fresh, raw whole milk at the location in the 1970s. In 1985 they sold their 200 cows and shut down the dairy. Three years later Mary started selling pumpkins and sweet corn at a small roadside stand, and the business has blossomed from there. The Carletons also board horses, run an annual corn maze, host a website and do whatever else they can to make ends meet. “In some ways it’s like old times, but in many ways it’s all new again,” says Reid.

Fabian Holuin heads out from the Carleton produce stand to the fields, where they grow corn, pumpkins, bell peppers, beans and other cash crops.
Youngren Farms  *(Near Silvana)*

Steve and Joe Youngren’s great-grandparents, William and Annie McDougall, founded his farm near Silvana in 1901. Today the two Youngren families milk some 800 cows on their 650-acre “Dairy of Merit.”

A Youngren Farms employee and one of the dozens of “replacement cows” grown on-site to replenish the 800-cow herd.

“Replacement cows” such as this calf help keep Sylvana’s Youngren Farms in the dairy business.
Honor Farm (Near Monroe)

The Washington State Department of Corrections transferred the 277-acre Honor Farm property in 2003 to The Tulalip Tribes, which must use the acreage for the biogas plant. Once a thriving dairy farm, the site will convert cow manure to energy-producing methane gas.

The Snohomish Basin BioGas Partnership, a group of Snohomish County farmers, tribes and environmentalists, is planning to build a $2-million, state-of-the-art manure-to-methane conversion facility near Monroe.
Lavender Hills Farm  *(Northeast of Marysville)*

Mike and Carol McCrorie, along with Carol’s sister, Judy, took over the old Nelson Farm in 1997 and renamed it Lavender Hills Farm. Carol is the great-granddaughter of Lars and Netta Nelson, who founded the farm in 1887 northeast of Marysville.

Lavender is now king of the Lavender Hills Farm, which occupies 17 acres of the original 160-acre farm.

This sign at the Lavender Hills Farm commemorates the farm’s founder, Lars Nilson, who came from Sweden in 1887 to grow livestock and fruit.

Gift items such as garden ornaments, seeds, flowers and imports from Provence are offered in two gift shops at Lavender Hills Farm. The farm also hosts an annual Lavender Festival each July.