

Tanja Baucken

We are property and business owners in rural Thurston County. We do not own any livestock ourselves and protection of water quality is an important issue for us. We chose to make our home of 30 years in a county with a rural lifestyle on purpose. We enjoy getting fresh eggs from one neighbor (flock of about 10 hens), barter for a quarter of grass-fed beef with another neighbor (small herd of 6-12 steer) and walk past the 4 goats that live across the street in a fenced yard. Practically everybody around us has a veggie garden patch, some bee hives or a mini orchard. Preserving knowledge of good animal husbandry as well as some food security are important aspects of country living and have a direct impact on our quality of life.

We applaud efforts to protect the quality of our drinking water and are not opposed to regulations in light of an ever growing population, but also strongly believe that the ability to raise livestock and grow vegetables on a reasonable (family sized/neighborhood sized) scale should remain a lifestyle choice available to everyone without permits or applications.