**BIPOC Farmers in the South Sound:**

**Today and in History**

Very partial listing, send additions to <laurel.lodge@comcast.net>

**BIPOC Farmers Today – South Sound**

Narratives about the farmers/farms with an \* are available on the Slow Food [website](http://www.slowfoodolympia.org/bipoc-oral-history-project.html)

**Blackbird Farm**, Littlerock, (chicken, lamb, CSA vegetables) Jen Witherspoon.

[**Bunkhouse Acres**](https://www.facebook.com/404281323243551/posts/1405495563122117/?sfnsn=mo), Elma (vegetable CSA), Black lead CSA farm started in 2021.

[**Four Elements Farm**](http://www.fourelementsfarm.com/), Puyallup, (vegetable CSA, U-Pick Blueberry), Amy Moreno-Sills and Agustin, [press](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/puyallup-farm-launches-unique-program-to-market-fresh-vegetables/) story

**\***[**Haki Farmers Collective**](https://hakifarmers.org/)**,** Lacey, (grains, greens, roots from farmers of color traditions), Mercy Kariuki-McGee and daughter, [video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1R6k0ftdjto)

[**Hollingsworth Cannabis Company**](https://www.hollingsworthcannabis.com/) **,** Shelton, (greenhouse grown cannabis) Joy and Raft Hollingsworth.

**Jose Torres Dairy,** Elma (dairy cattle and milk production) Jose Torres[, Jose Torres](mailto:,%20Jose%20Torres).

[**Local Color Farm and Fiber**](https://localcolorfarmandfiber.com/), Puyallup River Valley, (flowers and fiber), Emily Tzeng and Brian Love.

\***Ninth Heaven Herbs & Vegetables**, Olympia (Asian vegetables), Debbie Leung, at the Olympia Farmers Market in the 80’s, though no longer growing for sale Debbie stays connected to farming in a variety of ways.

**Ojeda Farms,** Ethel, (flowers, blueberries), Gonzalo and Maria Ojeda, Olympia Farmers Market, Seattle Wholesale Growers Market.

**\***[**Rancho Durango**](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Rancho-Durango/134381573297694)**,** Shelton, (meat, agritourism), Jesus Echeverria and family. 6

[**Sidhys Fruit Stand**](https://www.facebook.com/sidhusfruitstand/about/?ref=page_internal)**,**  Puyallup,(berries), [Chet Sidhu](https://sidhuberries.wordpress.com/about/), Tumwater Farmers Market.

[**Sky Island Farm**](https://skyislandfarmcsa.com/), Humtulips, (vegetable, herb, fruit, and flower), Bil Thorne and Katherine Harwell.

**BIPOC Farmers in History – South Sound**

**Before the Treaty Era (before 1850s)**

* **Camas Farming**: Pre-settlers local tribal oyster farming and [camas farming](https://www.historylink.org/file/11220) – since time immemorial.
* **Oyster Farming**: some reference in the book [Katie Kettle Gale](https://www.amazon.com/Katie-Gale-Salish-Womans-Oyster/dp/0803237871).
* **Sheep Herding**: Hawaiian sheep herder employees that were called Kanakas (indentured servants) were the first non-Nisqually People to inhabit the Yelm prairie in 1830 - <https://www.pacific-hwy.net/yelm.htm>
* **Sheep/horses/grain**: 1840s indigenous sheepherders at the Tenalquot Farm in the 1840s by Rainer WA at Hudson’s Bay Company’s with its sheep and horses. (See [Drew Crooks story](https://www.thurstontalk.com/2013/01/08/history-behind-the-place-name-tenalquot-prairie/)). [Description of sheepherders](http://www.yelmonline.com/opinion/columnists/article_e259c606-2045-11e5-bd4c-9fbda2cbf7f5.html) work.
* **Dog-hair wool:** Unique to this area was dog animal husbandry for fiber ([Dale Croes)](https://pnwas.weebly.com/dr-dale-r-croes-phd.html)
* **Settler Farmstead**: George Bush (African American) took the Oregon Trail here in 1844 to farm on what is still called [Bush Prairie Farm](http://www.bushprairiefarm.com/bush-farm-history.html). See [Thurston County: Water, Woods and Prairies](http://www.yelmonline.com/news/article_6f4a8fa2-18b4-11eb-8995-4726dbdf9a0c.html) by Shanna Stevenson, Chapter 1.
* **Herb fields:** (managed through burning fields), [Thurston County: Water, Woods and Prairies](http://www.yelmonline.com/news/article_6f4a8fa2-18b4-11eb-8995-4726dbdf9a0c.html), page 17.
* [Panel Discussion](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC3XeIFJDnc) (YouTube video 2021) with these historians about the Puget Sound Treaty Wars.

**Treaty Era to Statehood 1850s to 1950s**

* **Settler Farmstead:** Betsy Edgars, Yakima Tribe, and husband John (former Hudson Bay Company employee, white) first farmers on the Yelm Prairie <https://www.pacific-hwy.net/yelm.htm>.
* **Settler Farmstead:** William Owen Bush, oldest son of George Bush was a [nationally known farmer](http://www.yelmonline.com/life/valley_history/article_d83253ee-d87c-11e8-9aa5-af3dd5470e09.html) who won prizes for his grain at the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, at the Columbian World Exposition in 1893, and at the Pan American Exposition in 1901.
* **Oyster Farming**: [Katie Kettle Gale](https://www.amazon.com/Katie-Gale-Salish-Womans-Oyster/dp/0803237871), Coast Salish woman who was an Oyster Farmer selling in Olympia in the 1890s.
* **Oyster Farming**: 1919 Japanese immigrants brought the Pacific Oyster (was called Japanese Oyster prior to WWII) to the west coast - Pearl Oyster Company J. Emy Tsukimoto and Joe Miyagi (described in <https://www.historylink.org/File/21070> ) see also [The Immigrant Oyster (Ostrea Gigas)](wsg.washington.edu%20›%20wordpress%20›%20wp-content%20›%20uploads).
* **Turkey**: Margaret Anne Carter Cogwell in 1919 near Rochester, WA sold in Seattle. [Thurston County: Water, Woods and Prairies](http://www.yelmonline.com/news/article_6f4a8fa2-18b4-11eb-8995-4726dbdf9a0c.html),page 147,coordinated by local historian Sandra Crowell.