SOUTH PUGET SOUND
DISCOVERY FARMS®

American Farmland Trust, Discovery Farms Washington®, and King Conservation District are working together to engage producers in a cooperative, on-the-ground research and demonstration project to assess, promote the benefits, and improve adoption of on-farm conservation practices that enhance water quality in Puget Sound.

What we’re doing

■ Our study will measure water quality data adjacent to manure storage best management practice sites with different treatments (with and without roofs and floorings), as compared to a control site (an uncovered manure pile.)
■ Manure storage systems will be installed on two sites in King County with farmers on a voluntary basis.

How we’re doing it

The Discovery Farms® model revolves around three principles:

1) Farmer Leadership, 2) Research Design and Implementation, and 3) Communicating the Results

With input from a farmer-led steering committee, an innovative protocol for on-the-ground water quality monitoring will be developed, with preliminary data gathered and analyzed to inform future project phases. A report will document preliminary findings and lessons learned from research sites. Outreach events (farm tours or workshops) will be conducted in the watershed.

WHY THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT

Farmers are some of the best stewards of our nation’s lands. Conservation practices installed on farms have many benefits, including water quality enhancement, soil quality protection, and economic savings potential. Proper manure management is an important practice for animal operations that protects water quality and enhances soil health.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Support and work with your local conservation district to learn more about responsible manure management practices. Explore how the Discovery Farms® research model could be applied in your watershed.

ABOUT AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST

American Farmland Trust has helped to save over 6.5 million acres of farm and ranchland and contributed to conservation improvements on millions more. Our mission is to protect farmland, promote environmentally sound farming practices, and keep farmers on the land.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit: https://farmland.org/project/south-puget-sound-discovery-farms/
https://www.wadiscoveryfarms.org/
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