



Philosophical Ponderings of a Farmer

Local Food + Emergency Preparedness (c) 2018

Seeing that the All County Picnic is coming up in a couple of weeks, I have been thinking about the link between local food and emergency preparedness.

I'm sure we've all heard that in the event of a large scale emergency (the Big One, let's say), Jefferson County will be on its own for several days (at minimum) to several weeks. (I personally think the later figure is probably the more accurate as the lions share of resources will head to the Seattle Metro Area first). And that our grocery stores have a limited 3 day supply of food.

So how prepared are we to feed ourselves during such an event? Our wonderful local farmers and food producers could potentially be a big help here, but there are many others that might be able to provide assistance as well. Aside from the emergency preparedness kits that we all should (but likely don't) have in our homes, Port Townsend and Jefferson County have amazing Food Banks, Food Bank Gardens, Community Gardens, and Backyard Gardens, not to mention a network of neighborhoods that have organized to prepare for just such emergencies.

I think the more local food production we can cultivate, and the more we are able to do for ourselves in general, the better off we will be as a community, both during "quite times" and in the event of an emergency. In the meantime, you are welcome to come to my house if you are willing to live off of pickles alone for a couple of weeks.