



# 3 Visions Farm

Cocoagranola LLC

## The Complicated Matter of Policies

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It's time; the US needs regenerative practices. It also needs to fund more research into understanding what that means and the effects on climate, economics and society right now. The unfortunate truth is that we're in the thick of it and on a federal level there just isn't enough support for the massive move that needs to happen. It's now left to the states to pick up the efforts where it's falling behind. If enough can get together then we could come closer to the push we really need. So what's slowing us down and where do we need support?

In our state, Washington has a need for agriculturally centric laws. It alone has over 39,500 rural farms that it makes a good deal of capital off of, profiting around 10.6\$ billion off agriculture in total. In fact it's the third largest food and agriculture exporter in the US. In 2007, they launched a comprehensive study to try to assess the needs of farmers into 2020 and beyond. To this day farmers are still seeking adjustments that are agriculture friendly, especially regenerative, due to regulatory barriers they need eliminated. A great deal of that includes accessible insurance, changes to zone ordinances, education and training to name a few. Money is often the reason for lack of support with funding lagging behind. Some costs are currently being offset through credits by incentive programs Washington offers; a debated move that requires a good deal of trust to the organization offering them and those reporting but they've shown some effectiveness.



The lack of education on permaculture and sustainable topics poses one of the largest barriers. This is further exacerbated by the lack of federal research into it, making it difficult to spread practices. Conservation laws, as an example, haven't been updated to include the fact that regenerative farming can restore the land, not harm it, creating a block for farmers. Thankfully this is steadily gaining traction. There are six colleges and universities in Washington state itself that offer degrees around these fields with more in the Eastern US. This should be readily available not only in higher education but at varying local levels, especially to businesses so they can adapt locally to their land. 3 Visions Farm already plans to help in part with education in the next season or so; nothing teaches better than an immersive experience.

It's a difficult climb to change our society because there's so much red tape and these are just a few examples. Our reliance remains either on the state to back these shifts for the people or we end up having to scrounge it for ourselves.

Federal movement is far too slow but changes are happening. Study after study over the past few years support the effectiveness of regenerative agriculture and conservation in not only the US but other countries. We need to keep pushing it and learning, even if it's just one group on a plot doing so. It truly makes a difference in the end and we're not alone.

As always, thank you for reading.

### 3 Visions Farm

- Celena  
Meland

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