In addition to buying goods on the farm, the public is engaged with When Pigs Fly Farm through various means. The farm is welcoming to visitors who can purchase products and enjoy a farm-based experience. The CSA membership offers a deeper connection between customers, farmland, and farmers.

“My future goals expand the customer experience with a commercial kitchen, cooking classes and jams made from our own fruit.”

— Chris Hamer

When Pigs Fly Farm is a 10-acre small farm owned by Chris Hamer and located in Mount Vernon, Washington. The farm includes two acres in fruit, herb and vegetable production, and the remaining eight acres in pasture for Highland Cattle, alpacas, free-range laying hens and bee hives.

Pigs Fly Farm has three business activities. The main focus is a Community Supported Agriculture membership program for 30 customers. Next is sales at farmers markets followed by on-farm sales of fruits and vegetables.

How is the public engaged with When Pigs Fly Farm?

The public is welcome to visit the farm and buy products, and to enjoy a farm-based experience. The CSA membership provides a deeper level of connection between customers, the farmland and the farmers.

Grant Amount
$48,160

Grant Period
2016 - 2018

Grant Summary
Grant funding increased the farm’s presence at four local farmers markets, offsetting costs of packaging, labeling, merchandising, advertising, labor and produce processing.

About the Grant Recipient
When Pigs Fly Farm is a 10-acre small farm owned by Chris Hamer and located in Mount Vernon, Washington.
IMPACT OF VAPG FUNDING
While the business development goals were not all reached during the grant period, the farm income did experience growth. The model for selling CSA baskets was successfully executed throughout the grant period.

“I believe we overestimated what we could accomplish with the grant money,” said Chris Hamer.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS
“Wealth it is helpful to get funds to expand your business, the grant was not designed to help with equipment and infrastructure, which was our greatest need at the time,” she said.

Hamar found the application process a challenge because of the amount of research required and the timing. Applications opened in the spring, which is prime planting time for their farm operation, and remained open for only four weeks.

“Many farmers will find the process overwhelming.”
—Chris Hamer

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