

# Too Much Brown in Puget Sound

Members: Kristen Chan(EVE), Jessica Hatt(CH), Maricella Ramirez(RBE)  
 Advisors: Elisabeth Stoddard, Kristin Wobbe

## Problem & Impacts

Problem: Fecal bacteria contaminants & other pollutants in Puget Sound



Washington is the nation's leading producer of shellfish.<sup>[1]</sup> 16% of recreational and commercial shellfish beds in Puget Sound are closed due to pollution.<sup>[2]</sup>



Native American tribes lose millions in income and a key part of culture due to closed shellfish beds.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Causes

### Dairy Farms



Many shellfish beds reopened for a period of time following Nutrient Management Act implemented in 1998.<sup>[4]</sup>

### Hobby Farms



Washington lacks regulations and incentive programs to promote sustainable farming. In a survey, 50% of hobby farmers did not create a dry area to store manure.<sup>[5]</sup>

### Urbanization



Pollution from cities currently being monitored and analyzed by Washington State Department of Ecology.<sup>[4]</sup>

## Goal:

Teach multiple generations sustainable manure management practices

## Solution & Potential Impact

Solution: Pamphlet that covers the problem, techniques, benefits of using best practices.



67% of hobby farmers have children. 4-H can distribute the pamphlet to reach the next generation of farmers and landowners.<sup>[5]</sup>



77% of hobby farmers said they learned most effectively by contacting their conservation district. 52% learned effectively by receiving information at community events and fairs.<sup>[5]</sup>