

Kawamoto Farm



Historic photos courtesy the Kawamoto family.

Kawamoto Farm is an historic 149-acre dairy and working forest north of Quilcene, owned and farmed by three generations of the Japanese American Kawamoto family for the last 100 years. With two easements secured in 2020-21, and a mission to find the next farmers underway, Jefferson Land Trust is proud to protect the working agricultural and forest lands, wildlife habitat, and cultural heritage of this special place.

The farm's founders, Kaichi and Itsuno Kawamoto, immigrated to Quilcene from Japan at the turn of the last century. The family overcame extraordinary obstacles, including barriers to legal land ownership and detainment during WWII, to establish a thriving family farm.

The Kawamoto family, wishing to preserve the farm's legacy, began to work with the Land Trust in 2019. Generous individual donations, as well as Navy funding — like that used to protect Valley View Forest, Chai-yahk-wh Preserve, and other properties in Jefferson County — made it possible to purchase a restrictive easement limiting development, while an additional conservation easement guides land management, protects water quality and habitat, and makes provision for interpretive signage at the farm that honors its history.

Together, the easements also reduce the farm's market value — offering the next farmer a rare opportunity to purchase it at an affordable price.

During fall 2021, in partnership with the Land Trust and other community organizations, Jefferson LandWorks Collaborative put out a request for proposal to find the next generation of committed farmers for Kawamoto Farm. The enthusiastic response demonstrated the clear demand for more available, accessible and agriculturally-priced farmland.



We'd like to thank the Kawamoto family, individual donors, the US Navy, and our community partners and members of the LandWorks committee who are helping make this groundbreaking opportunity possible, and look forward to seeing the possibilities of the land unfold once a new buyer is selected and the purchase of the farm is finalized.



Kawamoto Farm aerial, 2020. Photo by John Gussman



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