

Mason County Farm Spotlight

Hungry Hollow Farm



Photos courtesy of Hungry Hollow Farm

**Hungry Hollow,**

established in 1888 in what is now Shelton, has been passed down through generations. It was first farmed by Grant Jones' great grandfather Jacob Edmund Jones who left Kansas in search of a farm to raise his family. Various members of his family worked the land growing vegetables and grapes in the 1920's and 30's, transitioning to a small-scale livestock operation in the 40's. Grant's Uncle Fred owns 120 acres of the original family farm, lives on-site, and manages their forested acres sustainably with no clear cuts. Grant's parents and their family lived there in the 80's and grew strawberries, raspberries, pumpkins, and Christmas trees before moving to Brinnon.

Grant told his mom when he was young that he "wanted to be a farmer." She said it was "really hard to do that nowadays because all the farms are really big and they don't make very much money." Somewhere in the back of his mind, he never let go of the idea to prove that he could do it.

After graduating from the University of Washington, Grant got his feet wet in the farming world by starting a business called Seattle Microfarm. They built and installed 35 backyard gardens for people in the first year. Half of those were full-service vegetable gardens where they returned weekly to help cultivate the vegetables and manage the garden beds. Grant then went on to other business endeavors for the next 12 years.

Eventually, Grant left the city in search of more trees and greener pastures at Hungry Hollow, his family's farm. Grant stated, "I wanted 3 things: bees, chickens, and blueberries," and as luck would have it, he got a lot more. He started by homesteading and trying

different things on a small scale for his own needs. After some trial and error, he then decided to proceed on a larger scale as part of a farm business. His business expanded from pasture-raised chicken and eggs to pasture-raised pork and beef. Grant currently manages about 20 acres in pastures. Twelve of those are intensively managed with chickens, pigs, and cows. He also has fruit trees and grows hay for the animals.

After figuring out what he wanted to do as a farmer and what products to bring to consumers, he had to develop a sales strategy. Eggs were easy to sell but finding a market for meat birds was more of a challenge. In the fall of 2019, Hungry Hollow began shipping products throughout Western Washington and their sales began to take off in 2020.

Grant advocates strongly for local farms. "Buy from your local farm. If you are not in our area, reach out anyway, and we will help connect you to your local farmer." He emphasizes that buying locally addresses environmental concerns even when shipping products because it benefits the customer with a higher quality product and supports the local farmer. "Small producers aren't necessarily more efficient; they don't necessarily have a lower carbon footprint. What it comes down to ultimately is local," he explains. He examines his carbon footprint by limiting the region where he ships his products. Grant continues, "If you can buy local, then it all works out, but what we don't want is to have these small local farms shipping nationally. That's the worst of both worlds. It becomes problematic from a sustainability standpoint." Grant's larger vision for Western Washington and the future of Hungry Hollow is to build sustainable and positive relationships with our unique environment by preserving and enhancing it.

Check out Hungry Hollow Farm's listing #27 and website for an array of products and delivery options.

