

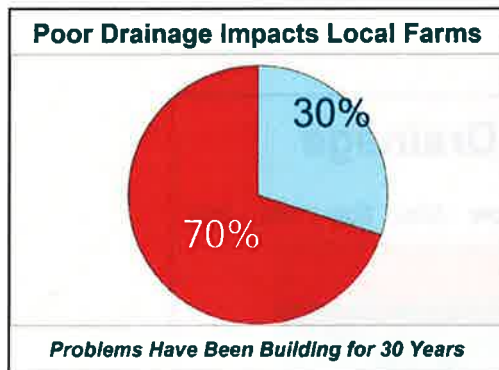


## King Conservation District Agricultural Drainage Program

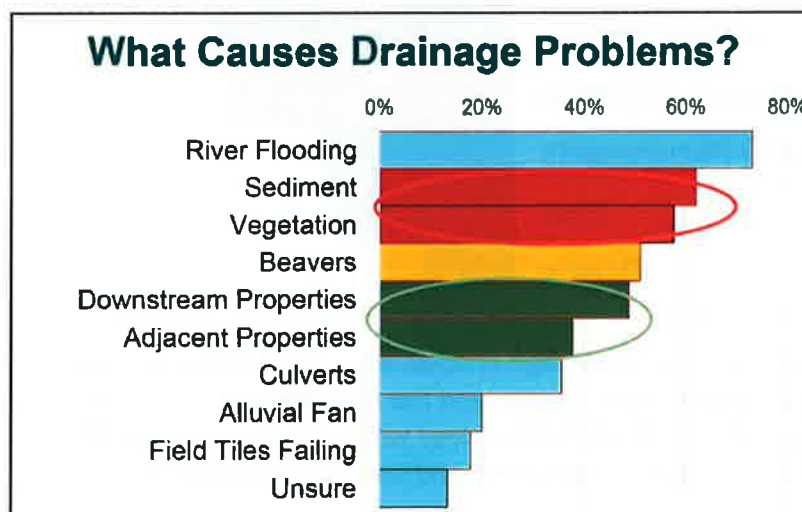
In January the King County Flood Control District awarded a \$250,000 grant to the King Conservation District (KCD) to facilitate increased landowner participation in the King County Agricultural Drainage Assistance Program. The KCD includes landowner outreach, financial assistance and project monitoring.

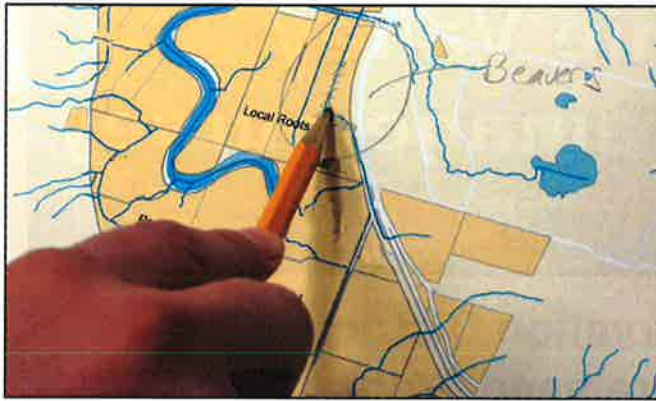
To initiate the new program, KCD staff members are collaborating with King County Stormwater Services on an assessment of drainage problems in the Agricultural Production Districts, with the Snoqualmie Valley APD selected as the pilot. In mid-February KCD partnered with the Snoqualmie Valley Preservation Alliance to mail survey forms to approximately 300 landowners in the APD. To date 75 landowners have responded to the survey, representing 2,964 acres with an estimated 17.4 linear miles of drainage.

### PRELIMINARY AGRICULTURAL DRAINAGE SURVEY FINDINGS



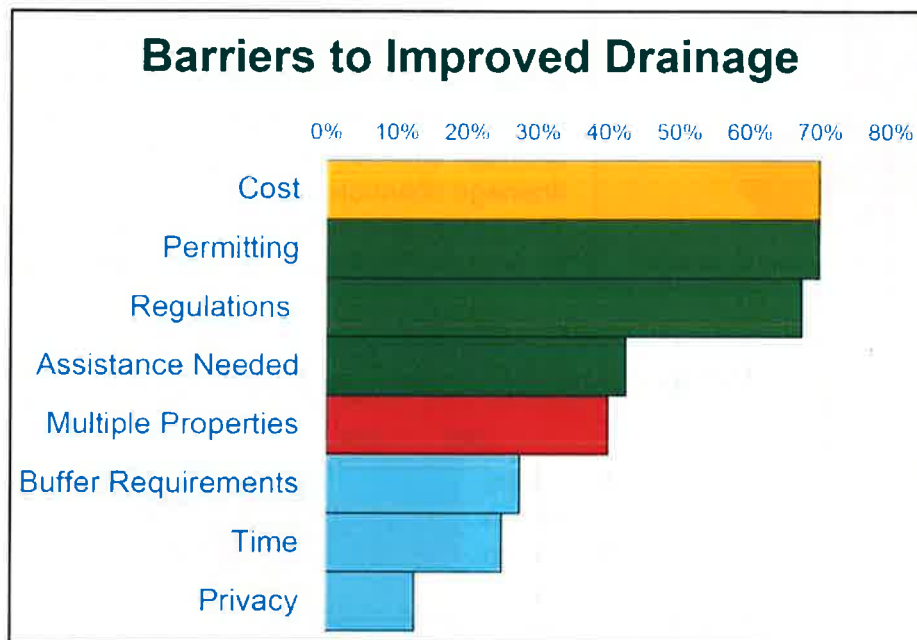
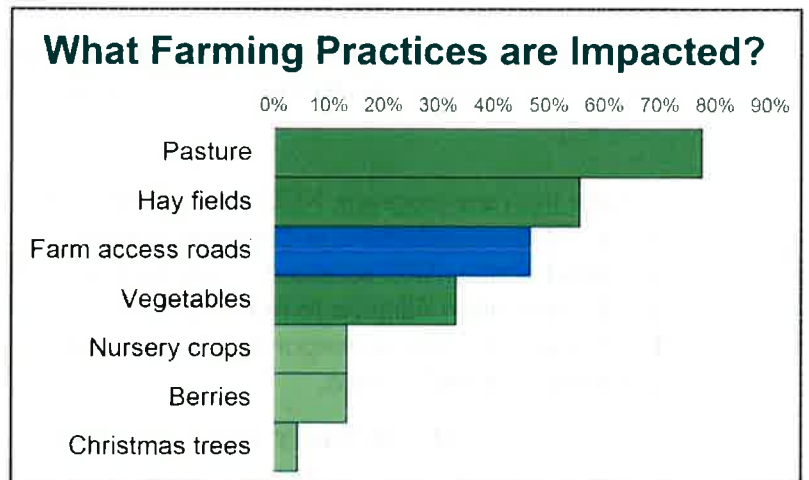
Of the landowners who responded to the survey, 70% said their operations are impacted by poor drainage. To no one's surprise, landowners reported that flooding from the Snoqualmie River is the primary cause of drainage problems in the valley. Major impediments to getting the water off fields following flood events were sediment and vegetation in drainage ditches. Increasing number of beaver dams blocking drainage channels was also identified as a major problem. The survey also showed that many landowners are impacted by poor drainage on neighboring properties.





After river flooding, beavers were identified as the third highest cause of drainage problems in the Snoqualmie Valley. In the initial survey, 30 landowners reported an estimated 2,200 acres impacted by poor drainage caused by beaver dams.

Dairy and livestock have long been the primary farming operations in the Snoqualmie Valley, so pasture and hay fields are most impacted by poor drainage. Surprisingly, farm access roads were identified as the next highest concern, followed by vegetables, nursery crops, berries, and Christmas trees.



Landowners seeking to resolve drainage problems are confronted by several major barriers, starting with project costs, permitting, regulations, and the need for technical assistance. Over the next several months the agricultural drainage survey will be expanded to all of the APDs and the findings will be used to develop additional programs and services to assist with keeping land in production across King County.