# CHEHALIS VALLEY FARM

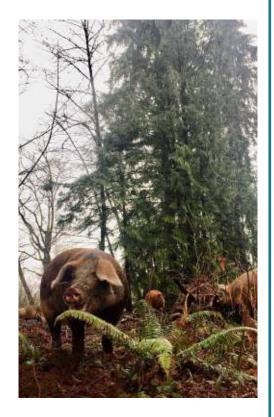**Grays Harbor County, WA**

## SIZE

50 acres of transitional farmland

## FARMERS

John Hagara



## FARM VISION

To contribute to and promote a vibrant regional food economy using regenerative farming and responsible land stewardship practices to raise healthy food on pasture and in the forest.

## ABOUT THE FARM

Chehalis Valley Farm is a 50 acre farm founded by John Hagara in 2012. The farm is located outside of Elma, WA in the Chehalis River Valley, an area formed during the Ice Age by glacial activity. The river flows through the farm property as it makes its way to the Pacific ocean. John initially established Chehalis Valley to provide his community with pasture-raised poultry, including chickens, ducks, and turkeys, because they tend to be staple foods. He saw an opportunity to offer more ethically-raised poultry than what is widely available through factory farms. In 2016, he began raising pigs in the wooded areas of his land. Chehalis Valley products are available direct to consumers at farmers markets, on the farm for pick up, in Seattle's whole animal butcher shop, Beast & Cleaver, and in various restaurants and grocery stores.

## FARMING PRACTICES

Pigs begin the rotation by clearing underbrush so that poultry can follow and move onto cover crop seeded pastures. Pigs clearing the understory also supports wildfire prevention by reducing the available fuel load. John has been managing his land organically but will certify for the first time in 2022. John owns and operates an on-farm poultry processing facility certified by the Washington State Department of Agriculture. He expanded processing capacity in 2021 to better meet the high demand from nearby farmers who turned to him when other facilities had long wait times during the Covid-19 pandemic.

## HOW WE HELPED

Iroquois Valley provided refinancing and an operating line of credit to support John's growing business. Refinancing allows John to maintain land ownership on more flexible terms, while the line of credit enables John to invest in growing his herd and expanding operations.



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