Too Much Brown in Puget Sound
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Problem & Impacts
Problem: Fecal bacteria contaminants & other pollutants in Puget Sound

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

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

Causes

Dairy Farms
Many shellfish beds reopened for a period of time following Nutrient Management Act implemented in 1998.[4]

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.[5]

Urbanization
Pollution from cities currently being monitored and analyzed by Washington State Department of Ecology.[4]

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.[5]

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.[5]