~PROCLAMATION~

WHEREAS, all farmers in our community play a critical role in providing food, supporting local economies, and preserving our agricultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, women farmers make up 36% of all agricultural producers in the United States, totaling 1.2 million female farmers. 58% of all U.S. farms have at least one female producer; and

WHEREAS, it is important to recognize the challenges faced by women farmers, including market access, access to equitable resources and capital, and extreme weather due to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations has declared 2026 to be the International Year of the Woman Farmer to spotlight the essential roles women play across agrifood systems, often in ways that go unrecognized; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness and support for women farmers fosters community resilience, sustainability, and the potential of ecosystem regeneration; and

WHEREAS, women farmers contribute significantly to soil health and provide nutritious, local organic food, deserving recognition for their wisdom and contributions; and

WHEREAS, healthy soils and healthy people are interconnected and form the foundation of a healthy food system, and a thriving local farming economy nourishes our bodies and supports community well-being, pointing out the importance of nutrient-rich food; and

WHEREAS, the Clark County agricultural study emphasizes the need to protect our farming resources; and

WHEREAS, prioritizing local food production reduces long-distance shipping, resulting in fresher produce that benefits our health, a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, and increases local food security; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge the essential role of women in farming and the need for their continued leadership, inspiration of future generations, and the supportive networks they create; and

WHEREAS, we honor the legacy of our ancestors, whose knowledge and passion guide us in nurturing our community and healing our environment through the strength of women in farming;

NOW THEREFORE, the Clark County Council does hereby proclaim 2026 as

~Year of the Woman Farmer~

in Clark County, Washington. The council celebrates our local farmers and supports a strong local agricultural economy and encourages more women in agricultural jobs.

Dated this 19th day of May, 2026

CLARK COUNTY COUNCIL
CLARK COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Sue Marshall, Chair

Glen Yung, Councilor

Michelle Belkot, Councilor

Wil Fuentes, Councilor

Matt Little, Councilor