

# New Silvana farm *grows*



PHOTO BY KRISTI PIHL | STANWOOD/CAMANO NEWS

(l to R) Randy, Silas and Vicki James run Silvana Crossings, a community-supported agriculture farm, where customers invest in the crop before the season begins.

By KRISTI PIHL  
*Staff Reporter*

For Randy and Vicki James, it's been a year of experimentation.

The couple started their farm, Silvana Crossing, after moving to Silvana from the Seattle area last November.

Silvana Crossing is a community-supported agriculture farm, where customers invest in the crop before the season starts, Randy said.

"Boom or bust, they're invested in it," he said.

This form of agriculture helps take pressure off of the individual farmer, Vicki said.

"It takes the middleman out," Randy said. "It creates a relationship between us and the customers."

The relationship involves the customers in agriculture, Randy said. Customers have their own farmer.

At the start, neither had any experience farming. They researched, of course, and took a Washington State University class called cultivating success.

Although Vicki knew she had a green thumb, she readily admits farming is quite a stretch from gardening.

Farming was a chance to fulfill their goal of working together outdoors, said Randy, an engineer for Swenson Say Fagét in Seattle.

Vicki and Randy started the farm because they wanted a way for their family to provide for themselves.

"All of us have our share for providing for the family," Vicki said.

Even Silas, their 9-year-old son, helps with the farm. He has a flower share and makes bouquets to send to customers each week, Vicki said. Silas said he also helps with harvesting crops.

The farm includes four gardens, chickens and ducks. The greenhouse the fam-

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