



SMALL FARMS FLOURISH IN CLATSOP COUNTY

LUKE WHITTAKER

During peak season, Anita Dotson was harvesting around 40 pounds of tomatoes weekly to sell at local markets.

Necanicum Fresh Farm exemplifies entrepreneurial energy of ag startups

By **LUKE WHITTAKER**
Coast River Business Journal

SEASIDE — Clatsop County is in the midst of a small farm revival.

More than new 25 farms have started in Clatsop County since 2012, according to latest U.S. Consen-

sus of Agriculture figures. The smallest farms, those categorized between 1 to 9 acres, have experienced the biggest jump, expanding from 32 in 2012 to 74 in 2017.

The U.S. Census of Agriculture, conducted every five years, examines land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices,

income and expenditures as well as a complete count of U.S. Farms and the people who operate them.

The latest figures reveal a boom cycle for new farms in Clatsop County, which has seen overall farms numbers grow from 199 in 2012 to 226 in 2017, a 13% increase and more than double the Oregon average.

As a whole, Oregon's farms have increased from 35,439 in 2012 to 37,616, a 6% increase.

Fresh crop of farmers

Anita and Bill Dotson are among the latest crop of small farms to join Clatsop County, officially launching Necanicum Fresh Farm on two acres along Highway 26 in Seaside in 2018.

"This was my first full year," said Anita standing in a green maize of