

Snohomish County Executive **AARON REARDON**



Priorities in Action  Latest News & Upcoming Events

Cathcart additions offer more value to farmers

A successful legal settlement in Snohomish County's favor will see Whole Energy complete work at Cathcart's crusher and drier facility with additional equipment necessary for processing canola into biofuel.

The equipment has been ordered and Whole Energy is moving forward to get equipment installed for summer usage. The completion adds additional capability to the crusher and drier, creating value-added opportunities for local farmers.

Canola that is crushed and dried at Cathcart will now also be able to be "de-gummed" – a cleaning process for oils produced from canola. While oils produced from crushing and drying can be readily used for other purposes, "de-gumming" is essential for biofuel production.

"The additional equipment means farmers now have local opportunities to complete the process before selling to production companies," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "This follows through on our Focus-on-Farming commitment to expand opportunities that increase net revenues back to our farmers."

Canola prices have continued to rise and the demand for locally grown grain is steadily increasing.

With recent good weather, farmers are already planting, extending the growing season. Farmers have more grain options than ever before as a result, meaning the county is anticipating ongoing demand for the crusher and drier.

Canola is not the only option at the county's Cathcart facility. The region also is good for growing barley, mustard, triticale and wheat, all of which have been processed at Cathcart in



May 18, 2012

www.snoco.org

In This Issue:

- Cathcart additions offer more value to farmers
- Photographer Bob Kash named 2012 Fair Honoree
- County opens Deer Gate access on Mountain Loop Highway

Follow me on [Twitter](#)

or look me up on [Facebook](#)
And please be sure to visit me on the Web!

Contact me:

3000 Rockefeller Ave.
M/S #407
Everett, WA 98201

Phone: 425.388.3460

Fax: 425.388.3434

Send me an [email](#),

Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon

the past.

Snohomish County also benefits from the crusher and drier at Cathcart. To increase the use of renewable energy sources in its fleet vehicles, Snohomish County teamed up last year with General Biodiesel and PetroCard to provide a 40-percent blend of biodiesel for use in its diesel vehicles. Part of that fuel came from eight tons of canola crushed at the Cathcart facility.

“We continue to increase our use of renewable and recycled fuel sources,” Reardon said. “Cathcart plays a part in that as well.”

To learn more about uses of the county’s crusher and drier at Cathcart, contact Linda Neunzig at 425-388-7170 or linda.neunzig@snoco.org.

Photographer Bob Kash named 2012 Fair Honoree

Longtime [Evergreen State Fair](#) photographer Robert “Bob” Kash has been selected as this year’s Fair Honoree.

Kash, who died earlier this year from cancer, was unanimously voted by the Fair Advisory Board for the annual honor. Kash’s wife, Nancy, will be representing him during the fair-time honoree activities, which include helping kick off the fair each year.

Kash became involved with the Evergreen State Fair when his youngest joined a 4-H equestrian club. He eventually took on the role of 4-H Photography Superintendent and was later asked to take pictures of the grandstand shows and eventually became the Fair’s official photographer. He won many awards for his pictures of fair activities.

“Bob was an enthusiastic member of the fair team and that attitude was easily shared and spread,” said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. “His contributions to the fair, not only through his photos, will be recognized for years to come.”

The Evergreen State Fair honors an individual or family who has contributed significant personal time and energy toward the improvement and betterment of the annual fair. Their efforts can be focused in a specific area of exhibition or toward the overall function of the fair. The fair honoree is recognized for his or her work and accomplishments at the opening day ceremony of the Evergreen State Fair.

The 2012 Evergreen State Fair runs from August 23 through September 3, 2012. For more information or to purchase tickets, [click here](#).



County opens Deer Gate access on Mountain Loop Highway

Snohomish County Public Works' crews have reopened the Deer Creek gate on Mountain Loop Highway, providing access to the Big Four Ice Caves, Barlow Pass and other recreational opportunities.

Crews finished clearing snow and downed trees this week, following the melting of lingering snowfall in the area.

"The Mountain Loop Highway offers access to some of the best recreational areas in Snohomish County," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Residents will be pleased to have access to these again."

The Mountain Loop Highway is considered one of the best scenic routes in Snohomish County and offers access to U.S. Forest Service lands, the Big Four Ice Caves and more.

In addition to Deer Gate opening, the U.S. Forest Service is expected to open soon the gate at Barlow Pass, which also has been closed due to snow. However, travelers are still encouraged to make sure end destinations are open.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.

You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.