

Snohomish County Executive  
**AARON REARDON**



*Priorities in Action*



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, April 8, 2011

[www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org)

 **April 25 Ag Roundtable will focus on top farm topics**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon and the Executive Office will sponsor the county's fifth annual Agriculture Roundtable on April 25, bringing together agricultural organizations, local and state governments and nonprofits related to farming to discuss pressing ag issues of the day and how they can better serve farmers.

The roundtable has become an informal opportunity for agencies from Whatcom to Pierce counties to share what they are working on as well as to better network and collaborate with each other.

"This is a hands-on opportunity to tackle issues that are pertinent to and affecting agriculture in the Puget Sound region," said Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon. "The roundtable builds off what we hear from regional farmers during the annual Focus on Farming events in the fall as well as current issues."

During last year's session, topics included fish and wildlife habitat restoration, regional sustainability, buffer requirements and transfer of development rights programs.

This year, topics are expected to include the U.S. farm bill, budget cuts to the Washington State Department of Agriculture, marketing programs and meeting farmers' needs for processing facilities.

Started four years ago and facilitated by the county's agriculture coordinator, the outcomes have been better planning and coordination between agencies and nonprofits whose services often cross paths.

"Many new partnerships have formed as a result of each organization sharing its work plans and goals for the year," Reardon said. "We've also seen organizations meet to collaborate on new projects and grants – all of which benefit regional agriculture."

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The roundtable will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be held in the First Floor Conference Room of the Robert J. Drewel Building, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett.

For more information, contact Linda Neunzig, the county's ag coordinator, at 425-388-7170 or [linda.neunzig@snoco.org](mailto:linda.neunzig@snoco.org).

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## County staffers honored by local conservation district

Snohomish County staff was recently honored by the Snohomish Conservation District for efforts to improve partnerships benefiting water quality and natural resource management within the district.

Snohomish County Surface Water Utility Director Debbie Terwilleger and interim Stewardship Supervisor Mike McGuiness received the awards during the Conservation District's annual awards ceremony held March 24.

"Our partnership with, and recognition by, the Snohomish Conservation District shows that Snohomish County has always been a leader in conservation measures," Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. "We will continue to build partnerships that protect our water quality and natural resources."

Celebrating its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, the Snohomish Conservation District works with farmers and landowners to promote and encourage conservation and responsible use of natural resources. In 2010, Snohomish County worked in partnership with the Conservation District to provide technical assistance and educational programs to farmers aimed at improving farm management, preserving water quality and promoting the recovery of salmon in our rivers and streams.

Snohomish County's Surface Water Management also addresses many of these challenges, and it was these efforts that led to Terwilleger and McGuiness being recognized.

"Snohomish County works closely with organizations such as the Snohomish Conservation District, as well as other local governments, nonprofits and environmental and farm groups to reach our conservation and salmon recovery goals," Reardon said.

The Snohomish Conservation District is a subdivision of state government and offers several educational programs, provides technical assistance and organizes numerous outreach events each

efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery.

Simply visit our [SnoStat Web site](#).

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Sincerely,



Aaron Reardon

year. In addition, the district provides online educational materials to assist those interested in conservation and farming.

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## Trout pond at spring expo offers youth chance to fish

Snohomish County's second annual spring recreation expo will include a live trout pond hosted by the Everett Steelhead and Salmon Club to give youth the chance to fish.

The giant 37-inch-deep, 20-foot-by-8-foot pond, sponsored by Les Schwab Tire Centers, will be stocked with nearly 1,000 trout. The free "Kids' Casting Pond" will give aspiring anglers and first-time fishers ages 12 and under the chance to catch and keep (or release) a live trout. All gear is provided for this fun-for-the-family event. Each child will have 15 minutes to fish for a catch. Hosts will be on hand to assist.

"I enjoy fishing as a recreational opportunity, so giving young anglers the chance to get hooked on a fun sport is a huge draw to our second spring expo," said County Executive Aaron Reardon. "Catching a fish in the trout pond is sure to create a positive and lasting memory."

"Les Schwab Tire Centers is delighted to sponsor the Kids Casting Pond," said Gary Fogelson, manager of the Les Schwab Tire Center at Murphy's Corner in Mill Creek. "We are proud to be part of Snohomish County and believe that it is important to play a role in the communities where our customers and employees live and work."

The second annual Spring Recreation Expo at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds – featuring outdoor and leisure-related exhibits, carnival rides and games, favorite fair food and the first annual Sky Valley BBQ Championship – will be held April 30 and May 1.

Admission and parking are free to the two-day expo produced by Snohomish County Parks and Recreation. A horse show, swap meet and Evergreen Speedway auto races are also scheduled at the fairgrounds that weekend. Expo hours will be 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday.

More detailed information and a schedule of events can be found [here](#). The Evergreen State Fairgrounds is located at 14405 179<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, Monroe.

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