

Snohomish County Executive
AARON REARDON



Priorities in Action



Latest News & Upcoming Events

Friday, November 5, 2010

www.snoco.org

 **Focus on Farming draws 500+ crowd for second straight year**

Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon opened Thursday's 7th annual Focus on Farming Conference before a crowd of more than 500 participants.

Farmers, growers and ag specialists came together Thursday at the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center for a day of discussion about the future of agriculture in Washington state and the Pacific Northwest.

Reardon encouraged farmers to press forward, highlighting 2010's agricultural initiatives, which include the formation of the Snohomish County Growers Alliance, devoted to advancing economic growth for local farmers, as well as efforts toward a year-round farmers' market.

"Snohomish County has what other counties want: dynamic farmers and a vibrant ag economy," Reardon said. "We are the envy of the region."

Keynotes from futurist Bob Treadway, rancher and author Jim Gerrish, and Damian Mason, a comedian with an enthusiasm for the agricultural industry, also heartened local farmers working to protect Snohomish County's ag industry by promoting the importance of locally grown produce.

With the conference's "Get Up and Grow!" theme, breakout sessions also were geared toward improving ag opportunities for large-scale and small, urban-style farms. Also participating this year were Snohomish County's Future Farmers of America.

"These are the young women and men who will continue the work being done today," Reardon said. "We know farming is a business, and we must keep it successful for the next generation."

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"Surround the Sound" patrols nab 22 impaired drivers

FEMA to discuss new county flood maps

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Participants were treated to a gourmet lunch made wholly from locally grown and raised food, including minestrone soup, fresh focaccia bread, an autumn greens salad, pumpkin ravioli, grilled hot link sausage and apple rosemary strudel for dessert. The evening ended with a wine-and-cheese tasting featuring local vintners and cheese makers.

A day earlier, nearly 90 farmers participated in the county's second annual Land and Water Summit while another 50 attended the state Department of Agriculture's Future of Farming meeting. Both were held at the Tulalip Resort and Conference Center in conjunction with the annual Focus on Farming Conference.

"This is no longer just a Snohomish County event," Reardon said. "We draw speakers and participants from across the nation."

Funding for this year's conference was shared among a number of contributors, including a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, administered by the Washington State Department of Agriculture.

Snohomish County also partnered with local organizations such as the Snohomish County Farm Bureau, the Snohomish Conservation District, USDA's Farm Service Agency and Country Financial Insurance.

Smaller sponsors included Cedar Grove Compost, the Northwest Dairy Association, Washington State Farm Bureau, Bill the Butcher Inc., and the Washington Potato Commission.

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Sincerely,

Aaron Reardon



Executive Reardon highlights 2010 agricultural successes before a record crowd at Focus On Farming VII.

 **“Surround the Sound” patrols nab 22 impaired drivers**

Snohomish County law enforcement has wrapped up its latest holiday emphasis patrols for unsafe drivers.

During the 8-hour Surround the Sound emphasis patrols, the Target Zero Team removed 22 suspected impaired drivers,”

“It’s good that impaired drivers were removed from the roads, but they never should have been behind the wheel of a vehicle to start,” Executive Reardon said. “Drivers must find a safer way home if drinking.”

Approximately 325 drivers were contacted during patrols, meaning one out of about every 15 drivers was suspected of impaired driving and arrested.

Snohomish County Sheriff’s deputies joined Washington State Patrol Target Zero Troopers on emphasis patrols, which are funding with a grant sponsored by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission.

Other agencies that participated include patrols from Arlington, Everett, Granite Falls, Lake Stevens, Lynnwood and Monroe.

FEMA to discuss new county flood maps Tuesday, Nov. 9, in Monroe

Residents interested in learning about changes to Snohomish County's flood maps should attend Tuesday's public meeting in Monroe.

These official flood hazard maps have been created by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) but are administered by Snohomish County. They identify frequently flooded areas and are used to determine flood insurance premiums as well as permitting requirements in flood hazard areas.

Residents can learn more about the changes in the new maps and how the changes will affect flood insurance requirements and building regulations from 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 9, at Park Place Middle School, 1408 West Main St.

FEMA representatives will provide a short presentation on the new flood hazard classifications and will outline the process for a 90-day appeal period as well as the timeline for final adoption.

Changes in flood risk designation may affect mortgage loan requirements and flood insurance rates for those properties in areas proposed for adjustment. The county is notifying all affected households of the changes by mail.

The most current maps on file were developed with data more than 20 years old and are outdated. Changes in hydrology as well as new ways to measure potential flood risks have allowed FEMA to create more accurate and updated versions.

The preliminary maps also can be viewed online at www.snoco.org by searching for "DFIRMS." Residents can view maps in person at Snohomish County's Department of Planning and Development Services, 3000 Rockefeller Ave., Everett. In some cases, maps also will be available at local city halls.

For more information on the meeting or to request accommodations for persons with disabilities, call Mary Hurner, Snohomish County Surface Water Management, at (425) 388-6401.

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