

Snohomish County Agriculture


Snohomish County
Economic Development
Snohomish County Executive
John Lovick



Focus on Farming XI “Back to the Farm” November 20, 2014

October 2014

www.snoco.org

In This Issue:

- Focus on Farming
- #530 Slide

Upcoming Events:

- Snohomish County Ag Advisory Board Meeting
October 14, 2014
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.
County Council 8th floor
- Focus on Farming
November 20, 2014
Evergreen State Fairgrounds

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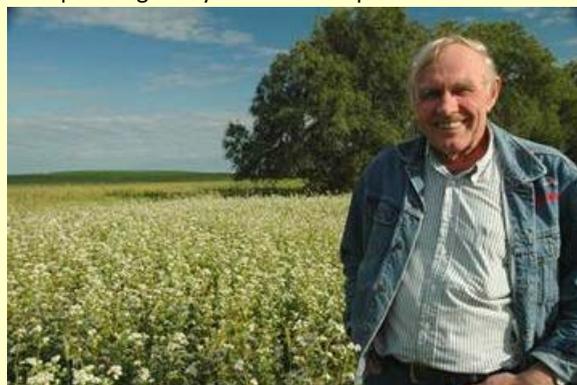
And follow us on Twitter

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We are returning to our roots this year at the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe! As our eleventh year approaches and our crowd continues to grow, we find ourselves moving back to the fairgrounds. We've added a large new events space that will house our general session and lunch. The beef pavilion will make an excellent indoor, heated tradeshow area with great access for large equipment. The 4-H buildings and grange buildings will work perfectly for our breakout sessions.

This year's keynote address is also a return visit: Fred Kirschenmann will join us from the Leopold Center in Iowa. Kirschenmann is an internationally known advocate for land ethics and sustainable agriculture. His writing has appeared in publications such as National Geographic, Business Week, Audubon, the LA Times and Gourmet magazine. He shares an appointment as president of Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture in Pocantico Hills, New York. At the same time, he continues to manage his family's 2,600-acre certified organic farm in south central North Dakota.

Fred travels extensively nationally and abroad discussing the importance of maintaining soil health, developing small- and medium-sized farms, and incorporating biodynamic techniques into farms.



If you are interested participating in the trade show, it will be bigger and better than ever! It will be in the Beef Pavilion which is a great heated venue with large door for bringing in large equipment. If you are interested in showcasing your products, please let us know.

If you are interested in being a sponsor for Focus on Farming please contact us as well.

Early registration is now open, adults: \$60, cultivating success/college students:

\$30, youth: \$15

You can register for this year's conference and get more information at

www.focusonfarming.org

A Busy Spring and Summer

As many of you know, our offices have been very busy this year with the SR 530 mudslide disaster and the economic recovery that ensued after the disaster. Because of this you've not seen much communication from our office. I would like to fill you in on some the work we've been involved with in the Darrington area. Snohomish County played a key role in getting the rodeo grounds rehabilitated and ready for the public to come up and support a great community event: The annual Darrington Rodeo. Through a grant from Washington state and a Federal grant for Workforce Snohomish County to provide employment working on the rodeo grounds, it was upgraded and readied for the first event welcoming visitors to the community after the tragedy.



Before dangerous, falling down arena fencing



New solid arena fencing



Old announcers booth painted



Old shingles removed and replaced by new siding and

painted

Other projects included holding a workshop on Value Added Products, which was facilitated by the Northwest Agriculture Business Center and was well attended by area residents.



For Darrington Day's flowers were donated by Jeff Telgenhoff of Telgenhoff Farms in Snohomish that were sold at festival to raise money to create a community garden in downtown Darrington. The sale raised more than \$2,000 for the project!



Farms along the SR 530 corridor were very concerned about how they would stay

in business with the road closed and the limited access to their customers. We were able to obtain financial support from the Washington State Department of Agriculture and support from the Department of Enterprises Service along with James Clark Design to add each of the farms from Arlington to Darrington that was open to the public to the “Red Rooster Route” agritourism map to increase their visibility and provide promotion of their farms. You can visit the website at www.redroosterroute.com to learn more about these great farms.

Because of this work many new farms opened to the public and others saw an increase in business.

Thank you to all who helped in this tremendous recovery project that will continue for many years.

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