



## Focus on Farming finds success at Fairgrounds

For its 11th annual conference, Focus on Farming came home to the Evergreen State Fairgrounds in Monroe. The Nov. 20 conference was a hit with attendees, speakers, workshop hosts and even trade show vendors. You can [watch a recap of the conference](#) – with workshop highlights, keynote speakers and an overview of the gourmet, local lunch – on our Focus on Farming webpage.



A sustainable lunch was another great success for Focus on Farming. For the first time in the conference's 11-year history, all the tableware – from plates to utensils to cups – was 100 percent compostable thanks to a donation from Cedar Grove, located in Everett.

“When you’re at an event, that’s the last thing you’re thinking about – where do I put my food scraps,” said Casey Funke, of Cedar Grove. “We know that. We wanted to make that decision easy for people. Don’t think about the sorting, recycling or putting cups, plates and leftover food in the garbage. You just enjoy the event. If you’re getting food or coffee or whatever, because all of the food packaging is compostable, you have one place to put it and that’s the compost bin.”

He said the company has always been part of the farming community in Snohomish County. It was a natural progression to go from simply participating in the Focus on Farming trade show to making the event itself more sustainable by providing the sustainable food packaging items and collection, ultimately creating a farm-to-table and table-to-farm event through recycling.

[Read more about Cedar Grove's partnership with Focus on Farming](#) on the SnoCo website.

## Sustainable small farming, ranching course begins Jan. 20



**Cultivating Success: Sustainable Small-Acreage Farming and Ranching** helps participants explore the unique advantages available to the small farm and ranch owner. Sponsored by WSU Snohomish County Extension and Snohomish Conservation District, the course gives participants a broad overview of production and marketing options for today's small farm. Whether you are just exploring the opportunities available or already have an existing operation, you'll learn what it takes to create, sustain, and grow a viable small farm enterprise.

Weekly presentations include local growers, organizations, and university specialists with expertise in direct marketing, value-added processing, production planning, agronomy, livestock production, and more. In addition, two Saturday field trips will visit nearby farms to learn about different styles of successful small farm enterprises.

Course facilitator Holly Thompson is a Stanwood Angus beef rancher and WSU graduate in animal science and agriculture economics with an MS in agriculture education. Thompson also facilitates Agricultural Entrepreneurship, the farm business planning course in the series and has worked for Northwest Farm Credit Services as a loan officer.

The 12-week course will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, starting January 20, at WSU Snohomish County Extension's Cougar Auditorium, 600 128th St SE, Everett.

Class size is limited and pre-paid registration is required. Cost is \$275 per farm or family. Visit [CultivatingSuccess.brownpapertickets.com](http://CultivatingSuccess.brownpapertickets.com) to register with your credit card or download the form from [snohomish.wsu.edu/sustainable-small-farming-and-ranching](http://snohomish.wsu.edu/sustainable-small-farming-and-ranching) and mail with your check.

For more information on the course and/or questions on registration, contact Kate Halstead at [khalstead@wsu.edu](mailto:khalstead@wsu.edu), (425) 357-6024.



## Don't miss Women in Agriculture conference Feb. 21



The fourth annual Women in Agriculture conference will take place Saturday, Feb. 21, in multiple locations across Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska. This multiple site conference format brings the best of national and local speakers to easily accessible locations.

Successful female farmers will inspire you with the "best ideas" to showcase your farm. You will leave the conference with new skills for marketing, a 60-second spot to describe your business and know where you want to be in five years.

Visit [www.womeninag.wsu.edu](http://www.womeninag.wsu.edu) for more information and conference locations.



## WSDA approves livestock industry rules

The State Department of Agriculture recently approved five rules designed to enhance the state's ability to protect livestock, including a fee that will pay for an animal disease traceability system.

Two of the key changes are to animal disease traceability and livestock brand inspection. The rules become effective Jan. 30, 2015, except for the animal disease traceability and livestock inspection rules, which begin on July 1, 2015.

[Read more details on the WSU website](#), or visit the Agriculture website for a [full list of rules adopted](#).