Linda Neunzig (Emcee) – Linda Neunzig is the Agriculture Coordinator for Snohomish County. In this role Neunzig leads Snohomish County’s agriculture initiatives, which have received national recognition for their innovative approaches to revitalizing the agriculture sector, and provides assistance to farmers operating within Snohomish County. She spearheads several agriculture initiatives for the county, including the Snohomish County Focus on Farming conference, the largest agriculture conference in western Washington State; agriculture sustainability programs; and agriculture education and information programs including at the annual Evergreen State Fair.

In addition to her role with Snohomish County, Neunzig is the owner of Ninety Farms, a 50-acre sustainable farm in Arlington, Washington. There she raises all natural grass-fed USDA beef and Katahdin lamb for Seattle area restaurants and local farmers markets. She regularly exports Katahdin breeding stock to the Philippines to improve the production capabilities of the native sheep breeds. She has attended "Terra Madre" in Turin, Italy—one of the world’s leading agriculture symposiums—three times as a U.S. delegate for Slow Food USA. She was one of five farmers chosen from across the United States to represent the American Farmer at the New York City Meals On Wheels benefit in July of 2008, and was featured in Gourmet Magazine as one of the producers. In 2008 Neunzig was awarded the “Women Who Inspire” award by the National Women’s Chef and Restaurateurs’ Association for her work in agriculture.

Dave Somers – Dave Somers took office as the Fifth Snohomish County Executive on January 1, 2016. Having previously served for 14 years on the Snohomish County Council, Dave is focused on developing policies to make our community safer, healthier, and more prosperous.

Dave manages the 14 diverse departments that comprise the Snohomish County government, including Public Works, Paine Field Airport, Emergency Management, Human Services, Medical Examiner, Parks, and Planning and Development Services. County government touches every family in Snohomish County, whether getting a permit, licensing a pet, engaging with the criminal justice system, or enjoying the Evergreen State Fair.

Dave believes more needs to be done to create regional partnerships, improve customer service, and build sustainable finances for Snohomish County. He is committed to improving the delivery of services to the homeless and ensuring everything possible is being done to protect the most vulnerable members of our community.
Dave has championed agriculture and sustainable development as the smartest way to preserve what makes Snohomish County great.

Dave is President of the Puget Sound Regional Council and serves on the Sound Transit Board. He also is on the Board of the National Association of Counties and the County Executives of America, giving Snohomish County a voice in national policy-making. Dave is a strong proponent for mass transit in general and light rail in particular, looking forward to the day when it reaches Lynnwood, Everett, and Paine Field.

Dave is a proud graduate of the University of Washington where he earned a master’s degree in forest ecology and a bachelors in fisheries science.
Keynote Speakers

**Erin S. Pirro, CAC** – Erin is a Certified Agricultural Consultant and Ag Business Catalyst. She has been helping farmers large and small make their businesses run better since 2001. As a Certified Agricultural Consultant for Farm Credit East with a background in agricultural economics, Erin's focus is on benchmarking and profitability improvement because sustainability means economics, too!

**Michael Rosmann** – Michael is a farmer and psychologist at Harlan, Iowa. He obtained his BA in psychology from the University of Colorado and his MS and PhD degrees in clinical psychology from the University of Utah. His professional work has contributed to the understanding of why people farm, their unique behavioral health issues, and why suicide is unusually common among farmers. He writes a weekly column, “Farm and Ranch Life,” which is syndicated in 31 agricultural and rural newspapers; he has written an award-winning book, Excellent Joy: Fishing, Farming, Hunting, and Psychology. He is Adjunct Professor in the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health at the University of Iowa. Dr. Rosmann says he is almost as passionate about fly-fishing and hunting as he is about agricultural behavioral health.
Speaker Biographies

- **Roger Beekman** – Roger was raised on a grain/livestock farm in Minnesota. Roger graduated from North Dakota State University with a BS in Animal Science. Roger served approximately 30 years with the U.S. Army and Washington National Guard. He has been with WSDA for 25 years. Roger started with the Food Safety Program as an inspector and regional manager and for the past three years as the Produce Safety Program Manager.

- **Doug Collins** – Doug is an educator for WSU’s statewide Small Farm program. With a PhD in soil science from WSU, an MS in plant pathology from Montana State University and a BA in biology from Colorado College, Dr. Collins is well-versed in exactly what constitutes a healthy soil and most importantly, how gardeners and farmers can develop it regardless of location. Born in Zaria, Nigeria and now residing in Seattle, Dr. Collin’s hobbies complement his career choice. He lists organic gardening, vermicomposting, and hiking as some of his favorites.

- **Tonia Farman** – Tonia is CEO and Co-Founder Queen of Hearts Hemp Health, Hemp Northwest. After a personal experience with cancer, Tonia founded a non-profit org and spent the past dozen years working with young adult cancer survivors. Through this work she saw first-hand the struggles and challenges that diet and nutrition plays into health care and how healthy foods are such a key to overall health and wellness. Ready for a change in her day to day, and additionally motivated by seeing the pickles bearing her family’s name in the fridge labeled ‘made in India’, Tonia saw an opportunity to support regional farmers while dedicating her skills to health, nutrition and wellness through sharing and advocating for whole hemp health.

- **David Gilmore** – David has been a commercial grower, and nursery owner, for forty-five years. He studied business, and agriculture, in college, and has worked in a variety of horticultural fields. He is a nationally recognized expert on green roof plants, and has participated in advanced research into plant-based nanoparticles. David has been around farming for most of his life, and has been the owner of Swan Valley Farms, in Bow, Washington, for twenty-six years. His current focus is on industrial hemp.
• **Gregg Gnecco** — Co-Founder and VP Operations Hemp Northwest and Queen of Hearts Hemp Health. Following a 25 year career of product development, logistics and global sales in the action sports industry, While laid up with back injury in 2017, Gregg became personally aware of the healing and nutritional benefits of hemp seed foods and hemp CBD, the year WA state grew its first hemp crop and decided to transition his skills to hemp. Hemp Northwest was founded in 2017 to work directly with NW regional farmers to process and market regionally grown Hemp products. Hemp Northwest collaborated in 2018 with the Colville Confederated Tribes to process and bring to market the first Washington State grown hemp crop to be commercialized.

• **Anna Groeneveld** — Anna is a dairy farm owner in Sultan, WA along with her husband Chris. In addition to caring for a herd of 250 cows, Anna truly cares about the quality of milk that’s being produced—which is processed and used in Beecher’s Handmade Cheese. “It’s impressive to see that something small and local can have that impact to make people recognize it,” says Anna, “it comes back to feeling good about what we do.” While proud of being a part of the Beecher’s name, Anna adds “…we make our quality product with the care we provide the animals. It is what you do as a dairy farmers—you take care of your animals.” The Groeneveld’s have been active with 4-H for many years providing young heifers and mentoring for kids to show at local fair.

• **Steven Howe** — Steven was in the United States Army for 21 years earning the rank of Master Sergeant. His military service allowed himself to gain valuable skills such as Project and Program Management. He transitioned those skills into the civilian workforce and was hired in December 2018 as the Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) first-ever Cannabis Coordinator. Steven is also the Hemp Program Coordinator for the State.

• **Mattison Jenkins** — Matti is the Arlington High School FFA Chapter Secretary and is a 4H member. She started working on a local sheep farm her freshman year and since learned animal husbandry and management skills. She is involved in her community, has learned how to show multiple species of animals, and gained leadership skills. When she started FFA she didn’t have a clue of how much her passion for agriculture would grow. She didn’t come from an agriculture or farming family but since her freshman year she’s realized how much this career means to her.
• **Dylan LeValley** – Dylan is a real estate and business attorney with Adams & Duncan, Inc. focusing on agricultural issues for large and small farms, family farms, agricultural cooperatives, investors, and landlords. Dylan is passionate about the health of Washington’s farm community, and assists his clients in all matter of farm management issues, including lease drafting and negotiations, easements and other property use agreements, purchases and sales of real property, succession planning, business formation, planning and structure, and financing. Dylan also has an active litigation practice and is experienced in guiding farming clients through all stages of real property and business disputes.

• **Beth Lorence** – Beth stepped into her role as Produce Safety Inspector for the Western region in May of last year. She came to the Washington State Department of Agriculture with years of experience as a Public Health Sanitarian for the City of New York, as well as an Environmental Science Specialist in the Public Water Supply Bureau at the State of Montana Department of Environmental Quality. Beth earned her Bachelors in Microbiology at Pace University in New York City and her Masters of Public Health degree in Environmental Health, from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston, Texas.

• **Patricia Lovejoy** – Patricia brings her love of fresh, locally grown products to Sustainable Blooms, a Snohomish County florist focused on seasonally and sustainably-grown floral services. Sustainable Blooms grew out of an idea to sell bouquets from flowers planted to attract beneficial insects for Patricia’s produce farm and farm stand, Garden Treasures. Patricia and Sustainable Blooms co-owner Lori Thompson have greatly expanded their on-site flowers grown for and skills learned at the Floral Design Institute in Portland, OR, and are now catering to weddings, events and other floral venues.

• **Ben MacDicken** – Ben has been involved in livestock since he young kid. His family managed the Marysville Livestock Auction which provides a great place for him to grow up. Ben grew up showing at local stock shows which was a great way to save up money for future projects and eventually college and his first home. Ben raises Black Angus cattle with his wife Jen, son Logen and daughter Josie. Ben was instrumental in the start of the Evergreen Youth Livestock Show. He is also the City of Sultan Public Works Supervisor.

• **Darcy K. Maldonado** – Darcy is a Farm Loan Officer at the USDA Farm Service Agency. She has worked for Farm Service Agency for 26 years in different capacities, and is currently the Farm Service Loan Officer that services North King County up to Whatcom County.
• **Amy Moreno-Sills** — Amy is a Farm to Farmer Coordinator at PCC Farmland Trust. She discovered her passion for agriculture while attending The Evergreen State College. Upon graduating she began her farming career in the Snoqualmie Valley of King County. It was there that she learned the business of farming and became an advocate for a myriad of agriculture-related issues. Amy and her now husband Agustin met while working together on a King County farm and moved to Pierce County to farm in 2009. They started their own farm business, Four Elements Farm in 2014, and currently grow organic fruits and vegetables on PCC Farmland Trust conserved land. As a farmer and a conservation advocate, Amy has a deep desire to keep farmland in production. She is excited to help support the viability of farmers and farmland through her coordination of the Farm to Farmer project at PCC Farmland Trust.

• **Sarah Pabody** — Sarah founded Triple Wren Farms in 2012. She owns and operates this first generation family farm with her husband Steve, where they share beauty by growing and selling amazing cut flowers and dahlia tubers, building gorgeous weddings, and mentoring new flower farmers. Sarah works closely with the field crew manager to handle harvesting, grocery bouquet production, field maintenance, and dahlia tuber shipping, and is the lead designer for the wedding crew.

• **Steve Pabody** — Steve has been farming with his wife Sarah since 2012, bringing his strong background skills of marketing and PR to Triple Wren Farms’ mission of #sharingbeauty. The family farm business is an all-hands-on-deck endeavor, but Steve specializes in sales, logistics, and maintenance. He is the visionary of Triple Wren’s future, readily seeing the forest, never getting lost in the trees.

• **Crystal Raymond, Ph.D.** — Crystal is a Climate Change Strategic Advisor with the City of Seattle. She has experience working as a climate adaptation specialist within organizations and across multiple sectors. She has worked for the US Forest Service conducting vulnerability assessments and adaptation plans for national parks and forests. She also worked for a public electric utility to assess the vulnerability of energy infrastructure and operations, and prepare for potential climate impacts. Crystal has a Ph.D. in ecosystem analysis from the University of Washington and studies climate change impacts on forests and disturbance regimes.
• **Jess Sarsfield** – Jess is a Relationship Manager with Northwest Farm Credit Services. She has been in the financial services industry for eight years and as an Ag Vision specialist with Northwest Farm Credit Services. Jess currently helps the Young, Beginning and Small Producers to grow and improve their operations.

• **Dave Scott** – Dave is a Stainable Livestock Specialist in Montana who graduated from Washington State University with a B.S. in Animal Science, Dairy Production. With his wife, he owned and operated a fifty cow dairy for 21 years, milking Guernsey and Jersey cows. The last ten years have found him running a sheep enterprise, consisting of 230 ewes on 30 acres of intensely grazed pasture. His duties at NCAT include helping small livestock producers meet their production and marketing goals through oral presentations and written publications.

• **Kirk Sehlmeyer** – Kirk is the resource conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service serving producers in the NW Counties. Previously Kirk worked as a forester, tank gunner, and hot tub repair dispatcher. When he’s not working you can probably find him fishing (not catching), mushroom hunting (hopefully those are edible), or backpacking (is he lost again?).

• **Michael “Skeeter” Pilarski** – Michael is Founder and Director of Friends of the Trees Society in Port Townsend, WA. He has been studying temperate and tropical agroforestry since the mid-1970s. His hands-on experience is in the Pacific Northwest. He has established 10 agroforestry plantings in the Pacific Northwest over the last 30 Years. He has worked with hundreds of species and specializes in medicinals, berries and fruits. He is the author of “Restoration Forestry: An International Guide to Sustainable Forestry Practices.”
**Travis Stockstill** – Travis, also known as the "American Butcher," follows in the footsteps of his great grandfather who was also a butcher. In the summer of 2013, Travis was recruited for a job at Lindy and Grundy as the result of his Instagram account "American Butcher." In his short time there, he increased productivity by 75% on beef, 30% on pigs, and 10% on chickens. In reality, their walk-in wouldn't have been able to hold any more than that! The Huffington Post named it the best butcher shop in America, it also won Star Chefs, and he butchered at Cochon555. Travis was approached by Cook Pigs at the same time he was feeling constricted and longing to go back into processing. He felt he was given a golden ticket. He gets to open a processing facility while also utilizing the artisanal skills he acquired at Lindy and Grundy.

**Laura Ridenour** – Laura manages projects for the WSDA Farm to School and Small Farm Direct Marketing team. She has dedicated her life to rebuilding an “agriculture of the middle” and establishing programs, systems, and policies that sustain direct marketing relationships. With 25+ years of experience working with and for farmers nationally, locally she founded the Eat Local First Campaign, Northwest Farm to Table Trade Meeting, September Eat Local Month, Whatcom Farm Fresh Workplaces CSA, and is the co-founder of the Whatcom Food Network and the Farm Fund Revolving Loan.

**Carolyn Thompson** – Carolyn is a first generation farmer florist. Her flower farm, Willow & Mabel Garden Company, started five seasons ago in Kitsap County with one small patch of flowers. Today she supplies locally grown flowers to two local grocery stores, creates floral designs for a select number of weddings and events each year, and collaborates with Kelly Welk, founder of Ciderpress Lane, to host flower related workshops on her farm. Carolyn is involved in every aspect of the growing season from field prep to harvesting.

**Jared Westerman** – Jared and wife Dana Westerman own and operate Fraid Knot Farms, a small beef farm in Monroe WA. They started their herd buying heifers from a friend and his grandfather. We are now responsible for a cow herd of 20 Aberdeen influenced angus cows. Our focus is providing healthy, alfalfa finished locker beef in whole, half, and we retain from our cows, we have peace of mind that each animal has been raised in a sustainable and humane manner. Over the last two years, our best steers have been sold to local youth in the spring and housed at our farm, for the Evergreen Youth Livestock Show. This has been a very rewarding experience, and we plan to continue supporting the youth in this manner into the future.
• **Brendan Whyte** – As Forester and Extension Forestry Program Coordinator, Brendan coordinates forestry education events in the north Puget Sound counties. He joined WSU Extension in 2018. He is an army veteran with a background in forestry and ecology. He has a BA in ecology and evolutionary biology from the University of Colorado and an MS in forestry and forest ecology from the University of Washington.

• **Liesl Zappler** – In 2016 Liesl left her position as the Landscape Coordinator at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle and started the Grain Bin Flower Farm and Inn north of Pasco. With her background in landscape design and organic gardening, she has created a magical oasis in the desert. She is honing the focus of her marketing less on farmers markets, and more on encouraging people to come to the farm and experience the garden in person. Bouquet making parties, photographic opportunities and weddings are the direction the flower farm has taken.

• **Kevin Zobrist** – Kevin is a professor at Washington State University, overseeing the Extension Forestry program in Island, King, Pierce, San Juan, Skagit, and Snohomish Counties. Kevin joined WSU Extension in 2007. He provides forestry education programming, including the forest stewardship “Coached Planning” short courses, workshops on a variety of forestry topics, interpretive programs, and individual assistance for landowners. He also develops publications, technical manuals, and other resources for forest landowners. Kevin has a BS in forest management and an MS in forest economics, both from the University of Washington. Before joining the faculty at WSU, he was a research scientist at the University of Washington, College of Forest Resources.