Renowned chef, veteran farmer to keynote 2012 Focus on Farming Conference

World-renowned chef Ann Cooper and former Marine Sgt. Colin Archipley top the speakers list for this year’s Focus on Farming.

The two will give keynotes related to their work in the industry during the Nov. 15 event at the Comcast Arena in Everett.

For Cooper, that means speaking about years of work advocating for better food for all children in public schools. The celebrated author, educator and chef will speak during the celebrated Focus on Farming gourmet lunch.

Archipley is known for his small-scale organic farm in southern California, established in 2007, that utilizes innovative growing techniques to produce the highest quality, nutritious and great tasting locally grown organic food.

“Focus on Farming’s keynote speakers are routinely among the best speakers in the nation regarding agriculture and food issues,” Snohomish County Executive Aaron Reardon said. “This year is no different.”

Cooper has been a relentless voice of reform by focusing on the links between food, family, farming and children’s health and wellness. A graduate of the Culinary Institute of America in New York, Cooper has been a chef for more than 30 years, including positions with Holland America Cruises, Radisson Hotels, Telluride Ski Resort and the renowned Putney Inn in Vermont.


Cooper has shared her knowledge and experience by speaking at the Smithsonian Institute, the National Restaurant Association, the Heifer Foundation, Chefs Collaborative, the International Association of Culinary Professionals and numerous conferences. She has been honored by SLOW Food USA, selected as a Kellogg Food and...
Society Policy Fellow, and awarded an honorary doctorate from SUNY Cobleskill for her work on sustainable agriculture. She also is past president of The American Culinary Federation of Central Vermont, and served on the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Organic Standards Board.

Archipley, along with his wife Karen, runs Archi’s Acres, which offers combat veterans meaningful training and employment opportunities in the high growth industry of sustainable crop production. The morning keynote will feature their work with veterans and farming, which works to augment and accelerate the agricultural revolution across America. The Archipleys will also teach an entrepreneur farming session in one of the day’s tracks.

In addition to Cooper and Archipley, Focus on Farming participants will hear from Joe Rogoff, Whole Foods Market Pacific Northwest Regional president. Whole Foods Market has a long history of working with local farmers to help create markets for locally grown food.

Rogoff will wrap up the keynotes with information on the company’s Local Producer Loan Program (LPLP), which provides up to $10 million in low-interest loans to small, local producers to make it easier for them to grow their businesses and bring more local products to market.

More than 500 farmers are expected for the 9th annual Focus on Farming Conference. This year’s theme is “Feeding Our Future,” and will once again include a 17,000-square-foot trade show, offering farmers and those interested in local food production a look at the latest equipment models, samples and demonstrations.

With an added track this year, participants have a chance to focus on one of seven areas – specialty crops, livestock, nursery/greenhouse, business of farming/marketing, local grains; new/beginning farmers; small equipment – or pick from among all the sessions.

The Focus on Farming Conference will once again include a gourmet lunch prepared by local chefs with local products. The all day conference ends with a “local taste,” offering a chance to sample a variety of local faires.

To register for the conference or for information about becoming a sponsor, go to www.focusonfarming.org. For questions, contact Linda Neunzig, at 425-388-7170 or linda.neunzig@snoco.org.

Lowell-Snohomish River Road will be closed on Saturday

On Saturday, October 27, Lowell-Snohomish River Road will be closed to all through traffic from 8:00 a.m. to noon, between South 1st Avenue in Everett’s Lowell.
neighborhood and just east of SR9 in Snohomish. Drivers are advised to use alternate routes.

Approximately 600 runners will be participating in the *Snohomish River Run half marathon and 10K*. The course is a loop along the road between Everett’s Lowell neighborhood and the City of Snohomish.

Everett’s Rotary Park and Boat Launch will also be closed during the event. Boaters are encouraged to use Langus Riverfront Park or the City of Snohomish boat ramp on Saturday morning. Traffic and access to Rotary Park will return to normal when the road opens at noon.

BTO Multisports is organizing the race. Visit their web site for more information, [www.btomultisports.com](http://www.btomultisports.com), and scroll down to *Snohomish River Run* under “Races.”

For information about other activities affecting travel on Snohomish County roads, visit Snohomish County’s web page, [www.snoco.org](http://www.snoco.org), and search *Roads Update*.

**County board seeks conservation proposals**

The Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board is opening a grant cycle for proposals to conserve lands for public use.

The Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program was started in 1988 with the purpose of acquiring property for the preservation of open space, farm and agricultural land, and timber land (as defined in state law under chapter 84.34 RCW) for public use or enjoyment.

The amount of funds available during the current grant cycle is estimated to be approximately $1.9 million. Per state law, the grant funds are available to cities, towns, park districts and specific nonprofit entities. Grant applications, including a full description of eligibility requirements, can be located [here](http://www.snoco.org). Additional questions may be directed to Sharon Swan at 425-388-6616 or Dianne Bailey at 425-388-6622.

Applications are due no later than 5:00 pm December 15, 2012 and will be reviewed by the Snohomish County Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board at their January 2013 meeting. The recommendations of the Board are forwarded to the County Executive and County Council for final approval.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my electronic newsletter.

If you would like to send me your comments and feedback, or if you would like to unsubscribe, simply reply to this message.
You may also contact me directly by phone at 425.388.3460.