Participants spent an outstanding day of learning, networking and enjoying farm fresh local products prepared by regional gourmet chefs. Local and national farmers shared innovative ideas, and attendees learned how new and upcoming farmers are shaping the future of the agricultural world and providing tomorrow’s food.

New in 2015 was the first “Focus on Forestry” conference! Speakers covered a wide variety of topics which included Agroforestry Opportunities, Why Practice Active Forestry, Mushrooms as Alternative Products and Forest Harvesting Options.

**Keynote Speakers**

Keynote speaker Ben Hewitt, author and farmer shared his stories from the farm that touched each of us and set the tone for an inspiring day. Lunchtime keynote panelist USDA Undersecretary Ann Mill, UW Climate Impacts research scientist Guillaume Mauger, Ph.D. and WSU Meteorologist and Researcher Nic Loyd gave attendees a picture of what’s to come in the Pacific Northwest weather patterns.

**Sessions**

Focus on Farming: Some of the top agriculture experts in the country presented 24 great workshop classes in six industry tracks (see program next page).

Focus on Forestry: Top forestry experts presented 13 workshop classes in 4 industry tracks (see program next page).

**Trade Show**

In addition to excellent keynote speakers and educational workshops, attendees experienced a trade show that offered a look at the latest equipment models, samples, and demonstrations.
John Lovick, Snohomish County Executive

I am pleased to welcome you to Snohomish County's 12th annual Focus on Farming conference. Over the past 11 years, Focus on Farming has grown into one of the largest conferences of its kind in western Washington focused on important issues and new opportunities for the farming and agriculture community. At this year's conference we will be “Planting our Future,” by exploring timely topics such as near-term weather predictions, new technologies in agriculture, and exploring opportunities in exporting. We are also pleased to launch a new conference, Focus on Forestry, that aims to bring new energy into Snohomish County's forestry industry. Through these conferences, we are eager to work with Snohomish County’s agriculture and forestry communities to plant the future and identify action steps we can take to advance the prosperous and sustainable growth of these important sectors.

We are honored to be joined this year by senior federal and state officials, including Derek Sandison, director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture, and Ann Mills, U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment. Morning keynote speaker Ben Hewitt, author of the book “The Town that Food Saved: How One Community Found Vitality in Local Food,” will share his experiences and perspectives on local food systems. We will enjoy a lunchtime panel including Under Secretary Mills; Nic Loyd, meteorologist and researcher for Washington State University; and Dr. Guillame Mauger, climate research scientist for the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group, who will discuss the potential impacts of near-term climate change on local agriculture and forestry.

Once again, we are delighted to have the opportunity to enjoy fresh, locally sourced food during today's conference, and featuring the farm-to-fork connections that are so important for Snohomish County agriculture.

Thank you for joining us at today’s event.

Linda Neunzig, Agriculture Coordinator, Snohomish County Office of Economic Development

Linda Neunzig is the Agriculture Coordinator for Snohomish County, Washington. 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.
7:00 a.m. Registration/Check-in/Breakfast from the Biscuit Box

8:00 a.m. Conference Begins
MC Linda Neunzig, Agriculture Coordinator, Snohomish County Office of Economic Development and Conference Chair

Opening Remarks
John Lovick, Snohomish County Executive

Welcome
• Derek Sandison, Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture
• Congress woman Suzan DelBene (via video)

8:30 a.m. Keynote Speakers
Ben Hewitt, Ben’s colorful story of his family’s annual haying adventures with two elderly neighbors begins our day. Ben’s story is at once poignant, amusing, and inspiring, but perhaps most importantly, it serves as a reminder that we are all part of something greater than ourselves, and that sometimes the most important aspect of agriculture isn’t the food produced, but the relationships it cultivates.

9:30 a.m. Trade Show

10:30 a.m. Farming Breakout Sessions
& 11:30 a.m. in the following tracks:
-- Business of Farming/Marketing
-- Hot Topics
-- Livestock Production
-- Nursery/Greenhouse
-- Exporting Your Farm Products
-- Sustainable Ag Education

Forestry Sessions
-- Economic Opportunities for the Forest Industry

12:30 p.m. Trade Show

1:00 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. Trade Show

3:00 p.m. Farming Breakout Sessions
& 4:00 p.m. in the following tracks:
-- Business of Farming/Marketing
-- Hot Topics
-- Livestock Production
-- Nursery/Greenhouse
-- Exporting Your Farm Products
-- Sustainable Ag Education

Focus On Farming Sessions

9:30 a.m. Trade Show

10:30 a.m. Farming Breakout Sessions
& 11:30 a.m. in the following tracks:
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-- Business of Farming/Marketing
-- Hot Topics
-- Livestock Production
-- Nursery/Greenhouse
-- Exporting Your Farm Products
-- Sustainable Ag Education

5:00 p.m. “A Local Taste,” Trade Show

7:00 p.m. Conference Concludes

Focus On Forestry Sessions

9:30 a.m. Trade Show

10:30 a.m. Session 1
& 11:30 a.m. -- Existing Opportunities in Forestry

11:40 a.m. Session 2
& 12:40 a.m. -- Future Job & Market Opportunities

12:30 p.m. Trade Show

1:00 p.m. Lunch

2:30 p.m. Trade Show

3:00 p.m. Session 3
& 4:00 p.m. -- Westside Forest Health

4:00 p.m. Session 4
& 5:00 p.m. -- Forest Needs Discussion

5:00 p.m. “A Local Taste,” Trade Show

7:00 p.m. Conference Concludes
Derek Sandison, Director, Washington State Department of Agriculture

Derek I. Sandison was appointed director of the Washington State Department of Agriculture by Gov. Jay Inslee in June 2015.

Sandison, a lifelong Washington resident, has worked in both the public and private sectors for more than 40 years. Before his current appointment, Sandison served as director of the Office of Columbia River within the state Department of Ecology. There, he was responsible for projects to develop water supplies vital for the state’s agricultural community. Previously, he led Ecology’s Central Region, an area composed of seven counties stretching from Canada to Washington’s southern border.

Other career experience includes 14 years as senior vice president of a Northwest consulting firm and 12 years in local government.

As state agriculture director, Sandison supports and promotes Washington’s rich and diverse agricultural industry both nationally and internationally.

Sandison has a master’s of science in natural resource management and a bachelor’s degree in biological science, both from Central Washington University. He has received many awards throughout his career, including the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s John W. Keys III Award for building partnerships and strengthening relationships and the Washington Governor’s Leadership in Management Award.

Ben Hewitt, Author

Ben is the author of four books, including “The Town That Food Saved: How One Community Found Vitality in Local Food.”

In “The Town That Food Saved,” Ben explores the contradictions inherent to producing high-end “artisanal” food products in a working class community. To better understand how a local food system might work, he spends time not only with the agripreneurs, but also with the region’s numerous small-scale food producers, many of which have been quietly operating in the area for decades. The result is a delightfully inquisitive peek behind the curtain of the town that has been dubbed the “Silicon Valley of local food.”

Transferring these experiences to not only our local farmers but also to local forest owners may enhance the selling of locally grown wood products, as well as create secondary income through recreation, foraging and value-added timber products.
WHO WE ARE

Forterra is a regional sustainability organization that focuses on protecting our working and wild lands and making our cities affordable, healthy places to live. Forterra thinks outside the box and applies a broad range of skills—from land conservation to policy innovation—knowing choices we make today determine how livable and beautiful this place will be tomorrow. For over 20 years Forterra has supported farmland protection efforts in Snohomish County and around the region.

SUPPORTING FARMERS

Forterra shapes land-use policies around the region that support farmland protection and help landowners who want to conserve their property find options that are right for them. We do this through several different approaches:

TRANSACTIONS

Our team has a longstanding relationship with the agricultural community. We understand the issues important to farmers and look forward to working with you. Please contact us for more information.

Nicholas Bratton
Policy Director
nbratton@forterra.org

Liz Johnston
Conservation Director
ljohnston@forterra.org

FARMLAND PROTECTION

ADVOCACY

THE FORTERRA TEAM

Our team has a longstanding relationship with the agricultural community. We understand the issues important to farmers and look forward to working with you. Please contact us for more information.

Nicholas Bratton
Policy Director
nbratton@forterra.org

Liz Johnston
Conservation Director
ljohnston@forterra.org
Keynote Panel

Ann Mills, U.S. Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment

As Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Ann has responsibility for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the federal agency with primary responsibility for working with private landowners to conserve, maintain and improve their natural resources. America's farms, ranches and forests provide 87% of the surface supply of drinking water in America. USDA programs play a significant role in protecting the nation’s supply of clean abundant water.

Mills brings to this position 20 years of policy and management experience with government and nonprofit conservation advocacy. Most recently, as a senior executive at American Rivers, Mills led the implementation of programs to develop sustainable solutions for flood and drought mitigation and water quality improvement across the country including urban and rural watersheds in Northern California’s Sierras and Bay Delta; the Columbia, Missouri and Mississippi river basins; the Great Lakes; and the Chesapeake Bay. Mills also served as a senior staff person for Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle, chief of staff to California Lt. Governor Leo McCarthy and legislative assistant to then-Congressman Richard Durbin and Congressman James McClure Clarke. She holds a Masters Degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin, and a BA in Political Science from Tufts University.

Guillaume Mauger, Ph.D., Climate Scientist, Environmental Educator and Postdoctoral Researcher, JISAO Climate Impacts Group

Guillaume is a research scientist working at the Climate Impacts Group at the University of Washington, Seattle. Specializing in Climate Science, his work focuses on understanding and assessing the impacts of climate change on human and natural systems, particularly in the Pacific Northwest. Guillaume has worked on projects that assess hydrologic changes across disparate Northwest watersheds, worked to apply climate information in habitat connectivity planning, and collaborated with floodplain managers to integrate climate change into their work. In addition to his research, Guillaume serves as a resource to stakeholders that are interested in obtaining and understanding the numerous climate and hydrologic projections that are now available.

Nic Loyd, Meteorologist and Researcher, Washington State University/AgWeatherNet

Nic is a meteorologist and researcher for Washington State University, AgWeatherNet, in Prosser, WA. He graduated from A.C. Davis High School in Yakima, WA in 2003, with a full International Baccalaureate (IB) diploma. He attended the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, MA from 2003 to 2007, and graduated with a B.S. in the Physics of the Atmosphere and Ocean. Loyd attended Oregon State University in Corvallis, OR from 2007 to 2010, and received an M.S. in Atmospheric Sciences from the College of Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences (COAS) in 2010. Nic has worked for Washington State University, AgWeatherNet as a meteorologist since 2011. His duties involve real-time quality control of AgWeatherNet data, inventory and improvement of historical weather data, data analysis and monthly summarization of Washington State weather, issuing weekly weather outlooks, and weather and climate research. Loyd’s work also consists of extension and outreach activities, including presentations and other communications with Washington growers and the general public.
Snohomish Conservation District
Helping landowners and partners conserve and protect natural resources since 1941

Offering free assistance to urban, rural, farm and forestry residents in Snohomish County and on Camano Island

Snohomish Conservation District
425-335-5634
www.snohomishcd.org
www.betterground.org
Speakers

Chris Bieker
USDA Farm Service Agency

Matt Van Boven
Agroforestry Management, Feral Farm and Raven Star Farm

Kelly Cahill
Snohomish Conservation District

Marty Chaney
Grassland Management Specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS)

Dr. Douglas Collins
Washington State University

Vance Corum
Co Author, The New Farmers Market

Robert L. Edmonds
Professor Emeritus, School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington

Derrick Davis
MicroHops

Tanya Dostal
USDA Farm Service Agency

Gene Duvernoy
President, FORTERRA

Hallie Harness
Washington State University

Dr. Karen Hills
Edmonds Community College

Peter Hurd
Silviculturist, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Northwest Area, Sedro Woolley, Washington

Gordon Iverson
Manager, Mechanized Thinning Operations, TimberTec., Inc.

Ian Jefferds
Owner and General Manager, Penn Cove Shellfish

Dr. Jodie Jones
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), U.S. Department of Agriculture

Kathy Jeppsen
Wetlands & Woodlands Wholesale Nursery, Inc.

Julie Johnson
Export Development Trade Specialist, International Marketing Program, Washington Department of Agriculture

Sam Kaplan
President, Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle

Kiely Strohmaier Kiehn
CPA, Senior Accountant, Agribusiness, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Glenn Kohler
Forest Entomologist, Washington Department of Natural Resources

Alison Kutz
Sound Horticulture

Matt Lantz
Vice President, Global Access, Bryant Christie, Inc.

Lilly Liu
President and CEO, Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington

David McInturff
Seattle Biochar Working Group, Tacoma Community College

Wally Michalec
Michalec & Associates Consulting Forestry Services

Carol Miles
Professor, Department of Horticulture, Washington State University.

Arnie Moeller
C-Gro, Inc.

Zsofia Pasztor
Owner, Innovative Landscape Technologies; Founder, Farmer Frog and Fonix Eco-Institute

Oak Rankin
WSU Extension Snohomish County and Coordinator, Glacier Peak Institute

Tim Robie
WISRrg

Sharon Sappington
International Trade Specialist, Washington Small Business Development Center (WSBCD) and representative of Washington State Department of Agriculture International Marketing Program

Jo Lynne Seufer
USDA Risk Management Agency

Jessica Shaw
M.S. Student, Environmental Sciences Department, Western Washington University

Dave Specht
Family Business Consultant, Advising Generations LLC & Author of the The Farm Whisperer

Beth Spitler
Animal Welfare Approved

Skip Swenson
Senior Managing Director and Acting Vice President of Policy & Green Cities, Forterra

Michelle Trudeau
Director, Student & Academic Services, School of Environment and Forest Science, College of the Environment, University of Washington

Paul Wagner
Project Manager, Atterbury Consultants, Inc.; Professional Forester

Steve Warner
President, Washington State Wine Commission

Duane Weston
Former Chief Forester & Manager of Pilchuck Tree Farm.

Ryan Williams
Snohomish Conservation District
Sessions Locations

A - Exporting Your Farm Products
B - Livestock Production
C - Nursery/Greenhouse
D - Hot Topics
E - Business of Farming/Marketing
F - Sustainable Ag Education

All Forestry Sessions to be held in The Longhouse

A project of the Snohomish County Economic Development Division

Location A
Registration, Breakfast, Keynote Speakers, Lunch, Trade Show, A Local Taste

Farming Tracks
A - Exporting Your Farm Products
B - Livestock Production
C - Nursery/Greenhouse
D - Hot Topics
E - Business of Farming/Marketing
F - Sustainable Ag Education

Forestry Sessions

10:30-11:40  Session 1: Existing Opportunities in Forestry
11:40-12:30 Session 2: Future Job & Market Opportunities
3:00-4:00  Session 3: Westside Forest Health
4:00-5:00  Session 4: Forestry Needs Discussion
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRACK A</th>
<th>TRACK B</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Exporting Your Farm Products</strong></td>
<td><strong>Livestock Production</strong></td>
<td><strong>Nursery/Greenhouse</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Get Ready to Export</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pasture Management – Strategies to Minimize Weather Effects</strong></td>
<td><strong>Grafting Vegetables – Update for 2015</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Sam Kaplan, Trade Development Alliance</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Marty Chaney, Grassland Management Specialist with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation District (NRCS)</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Carol Miles, WSU, Mt Vernon</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> This session will present exporting as a way to grow your company AND provide an exporting road-map: the steps to take to sell agriculture products internationally.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> This session will discuss methods of managing your pastures so that the effects of weather conditions such as summer drought or a cold wet spring on forage production are minimized. Our weather patterns are changing. What could we have done this last summer to minimize the effects of the drought? What strategies should you be implementing or be aware of for next year? What should you avoid, what should you be considering?</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Carol is back by popular demand to update her vegetable grafting research relating to tomato, watermelon and eggplant crops. The project is based at Washington State University-Mount Vernon Research and Extension Center. If you were one of the standing-room only crowd from last year, please come back to hear the latest; and if you missed last year’s talk, join us for another opportunity to hear about this hot topic in horticulture.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ExportMarket Focus: China and Korea</strong></td>
<td><strong>Labeling for the Conscientious Consumer</strong></td>
<td><strong>Beneficial Insects, Bacteria and Fungi for Production</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Sam Kaplan, Trade Development Alliance</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Beth Spitzer, Animal Welfare Approved</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Alison Kutz, Sound Horticulture</td>
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<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Steve Warner, President, Washington State Wine Commission and Matt Lantz, Vice President, Global Access, Bryant Christie Inc.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> In the midst of widespread use of confusing food labels and claims, Animal Welfare Approved, a free, third-party certifier, is the most highly regarded food label when it comes to animal welfare, pasture-based farming and sustainability. Learn about the wide range of free resources that AWA offers livestock producers and the value of third party certification in helping your products stand out in the marketplace.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Remaining economically viable when the bottom line keeps shrinking is a challenge for all of us as producers. This presentation will help nursery and row crop producers jog their creative minds: we will walk through what growers are doing in various sectors to respond to increased pest pressure. We’ll lean on some of our best and most economical biological tools. Learning to use banker plants, encouraging naturally occurring beneficial insects into the vacuum of our cash crops, and integrating beneficial bacteria and fungi are today’s tools.</td>
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<td><strong>Stories of Success: Case Studies in Exporting</strong></td>
<td><strong>Going Solar with Off-Stream Watering for Livestock</strong></td>
<td><strong>Upping Your Natives Knowledge!</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Moderator:</strong> Sam Kaplan, Trade Development Alliance</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Ryan Williams and Kelly Cahill, Snohomish Conservation District</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Kathy Jeppsen, Wetlands &amp; Woodlands Wholesale Nursery, Inc.</td>
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<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Ian Jeffers, Owner and General Manager, Penn Cove Shellfish and TBA</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> With increased regulations regarding livestock access to streams and waterways, livestock owners are continually seeking suitable methods to water their livestock after they are fenced out of the waterway. Solar watering is a great option to provide off stream watering using solar panels and battery pumps as an easy and cost effective solution for excluding live stock from streams and waterways to improve and protect water quality.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> Natives’ adaptability and proven drought tolerance makes them a “natural” for Washington landscapes, but how do you help your customers realize it is not an “all or nothing” proposition? Enter Kathy Jeppsen of Wetlands &amp; Woodlands, a premier natives wholesale producer. Using examples from her own landscape, Kathy will demonstrate how to teach your staff and customers to effectively incorporate natives into a traditional landscape setting, encourage healthy ecosystems and wildlife and increase sustainability. Come and see natives in a new light.</td>
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<td><strong>Next Steps</strong></td>
<td><strong>Livestock Exports 101</strong></td>
<td><strong>Easy &amp; Simple Ways to Grow Mushrooms Successfully</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Lilly Liu, President and CEO, Export Finance Assistance Center of Washington; Sam Kaplan, president of Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Dr. Joe Baker, State Veterinarian, Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA)</td>
<td><strong>Presenter:</strong> Zsofia Pasztor, Innovative Landscape Technologies</td>
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<td><strong>Description:</strong> Next steps to take on your track to exporting. What do you do after this conference? What are your resources? Help on finding financing.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> With new opportunities in the livestock arena, there are options for exporting livestock not only out of state, but out of country. This session will discuss minimum requirements, quarantine regulations, paperwork and application processes and who to work with to make this an effective business venture for the farm.</td>
<td><strong>Description:</strong> See how Zsofia practices mushroom growing in her garden and at the urban farms she manages. She uses simple materials to start her mushrooms and grow the delicious beers with minimal interference. Some of the practices are potentially unique business opportunities, while others are just a good way to grow and eat. She learned from urban farmers, such as Will Allen and others. She adjusted and customized the methods they learned in order to fit the regional conditions and her project specific needs. Listen and ask questions, see and touch the presented materials, as Zsofia shares her experiences with the participants.</td>
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### TRACK D
**Hot Topics**

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<th>Session</th>
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<th>Presenter</th>
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<tr>
<td>Display, Merchandising and Customer Relations Tips to Boost Your Direct Sales</td>
<td>The lead author of the industry standard, THE NEW FARMERS’ MARKET, will present what some of the best U.S. marketers are doing with displays, pricing, product expansion and more. Learn who customers are and what they want at some of the best markets. Understand the trends that are changing the farmers’ market industry.</td>
<td>Vance Corum, Co Author, The New Farmers Market</td>
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<td>Addressing the Riparian Buffer System: Current Science and the Benefits of Narrow Riparian Buffers</td>
<td>Planted trees along agricultural waterways can be a very contentious issue and worth gaining information about as Washington State policies change. As landowners, you can gain information in this session about the benefits of buffers such as improved drainage, natural insect enemies, and reducing the financial costs of tree plantings. You will learn from a scientific perspective about the effectiveness of planted riparian buffers with respect to agricultural areas, water temperature, and fish habitat. Preliminary results from a recent study on the effectiveness of narrow buffers in Whatcom County, Washington will be presented as well.</td>
<td>Jessica Shaw, M.S. student in the Environmental Sciences department at Western Washington University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Food Scraps to Fertilizer; The Role of Closed Loop Fertilizer in Sustainable Farming</td>
<td>This 50 minute workshop will discuss conversion of food scraps to a high nutrient certified organic liquid fertilizer. We will describe the WISEng process, the certification process, food safety, environmental impacts and crop case studies. Then we will open the floor for discussion about fertilizer in general. How do farms design a fertility program, water quality issues, and any other topics the group wishes to raise. We will keep session notes and distribute to all attending. There might be chocolate.</td>
<td>Tim Robie, WISRrg</td>
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<td>MicroHops, Biointensive Hop Growing in Western Washington</td>
<td>MicroHops in Lake Stevens, Washington is a small hop farm developing growing techniques for the west side of the Cascades. The farm is employing the Grow Biointensive sustainable farming and composting methodologies. MicroHops is a co-operative based on the Worker Self Directed Enterprise (WSDE) model that originated with the largest Co-Op corporation in the world, The Mondragon Corp. headquartered in Spain.</td>
<td>Derrick Davis, MicroHops</td>
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### TRACK E
**Business of Farming/Marketing**

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exploring Financing Options with USDA Farm Service Agency</td>
<td>Learn what USDA Farm Service Agency offers producers in direct and guarantee loans and the farm storage facility loan program.</td>
<td>Tanya Dostal, USDA Farm Service Agency</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protecting Your Farm Crop Investment Against Natural Disasters</td>
<td>You’ve invested your time, money and labor to build your farm, now learn what you can do to protect your investment. Information on what USDA programs are available to protect your crops against natural disasters.</td>
<td>Chris Biever, USDA Farm Service Agency; and Jo Lynne Seufer, USDA Risk Management Agency</td>
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<td>Farm Transition Planning...There’s an App for That</td>
<td>The Farm Whisperer: Specht explores the secrets to confronting and managing vital generational issues like shared ownership, compensation quarrels, management and ownership succession challenges and other topics that no one wants to talk about, but everyone wants solved.</td>
<td>Dave Specht, Family Business Consultant, Advising Generations LLC &amp; Author of the The Farm Whisperer</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Basics of Filing an IRS Schedule F Tax Form</td>
<td>Learn about the financial benefits of filing a Schedule F Tax Form as a Farmer/Rancher. This session will provide valuable guidance and understanding of which farm expenses qualify for deductions on your annual IRS taxes.</td>
<td>Wiener Strohmaier Klehn, CPA, Senior Accountant, Agribusiness, CliftonLarsonAllen LLP</td>
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<td>Biochar Production and Application</td>
<td>Biochar produced in a Top Lit Up Draft (TLUD) stove typically has a high surface area (400 square meters per gram) and pH (8 - 10 depending on feedstock). These properties make it an ideal amendment for poor, depleted soils with low fertility by moderating soil pH in addition to enhancing soil Cation Exchange Capacity (CEC), water retention, and more. This presentation will focus on three key parts of biochar use: the design and operation of the TLUD stove/kiln, biochar and its properties, and the proper application of biochar to soils. The presentation will include a demonstration of a clean burning TLUD device.</td>
<td>David McInturf, Seattle Biochar Working Group, Tacoma Community College</td>
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### TRACK F
**Sustainable Ag Education (SAGe)**

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<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<tr>
<td>Feeding Your Soil: The Breakdown on Organic Amendments</td>
<td>Organic matter in soil has many properties that make it a critical component of healthy soil, but all organic matter is not created equal. This session will provide an overview of the use of organic amendments to improve soil health, including compost, manure, and cover crops. Participants will gain an understanding of important soil science concepts to consider in order to feed soil biota in a way that will improve crop productivity and help the bottom line.</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Hills, Edmonds Community College</td>
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<td>Incorporating Compost in Specialty Crop Production</td>
<td>The project is based at Washington State University and the CASCADIAN Farming Center. The farm is employing the Grow Biointensive sustainable farming and composting methodologies. Micro-Hops is a co-operative based on the Worker Self Directed Enterprise (WSDE) model that originated with the largest Co-Op corporation in the world, The Mondragon Corp. headquartered in Spain.</td>
<td>Hallie Harness &amp; Dr. Douglas Collins, Washington State University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Application of Vermicast Products in Crop Production</td>
<td>The project is based at Washington State University and the CASCADIAN Farming Center. The farm is employing the Grow Biointensive sustainable farming and composting methodologies. Micro-Hops is a co-operative based on the Worker Self Directed Enterprise (WSDE) model that originated with the largest Co-Op corporation in the world, The Mondragon Corp. headquartered in Spain.</td>
<td>Arnie Moeller, C-Gra, Inc.</td>
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**Hot Topics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Benefits of Narrow Riparian Buffers</td>
<td>The farm is employing the Grow Biointensive sustainable farming and composting methodologies. Micro-Hops is a co-operative based on the Worker Self Directed Enterprise (WSDE) model that originated with the largest Co-Op corporation in the world, The Mondragon Corp. headquartered in Spain.</td>
<td>Jessica Shaw, M.S. student in the Environmental Sciences department at Western Washington University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Ag Education (SAgE)</td>
<td>Organic matter in soil has many properties that make it a critical component of healthy soil, but all organic matter is not created equal. This session will provide an overview of the use of organic amendments to improve soil health, including compost, manure, and cover crops. Participants will gain an understanding of important soil science concepts to consider in order to feed soil biota in a way that will improve crop productivity and help the bottom line.</td>
<td>Dr. Karen Hills, Edmonds Community College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Incorporating Compost in Specialty Crop Production</td>
<td>The project is based at Washington State University and the CASCADIAN Farming Center. The farm is employing the Grow Biointensive sustainable farming and composting methodologies. Micro-Hops is a co-operative based on the Worker Self Directed Enterprise (WSDE) model that originated with the largest Co-Op corporation in the world, The Mondragon Corp. headquartered in Spain.</td>
<td>Hallie Harness &amp; Dr. Douglas Collins, Washington State University</td>
</tr>
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# Forestry Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speakers</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| 1       | 10:30 a.m. - 11:40 a.m. | **Existing Opportunities in Forestry** | “Why Practice Active Forestry” - Duane Weston - Former Mgr. Pilchuck Tree Farm - Arlington  
“Existing Product Markets” - Wally Michalec - Michalec & Associates Consulting Forestry  
“Mushrooms as Alternative Products” - Zsofia Pasztor - LID Designer & Horticulturist  
“Agroforestry Opportunities” - Matt Van Boven - Owner of Feral Farm & Raven Star Farm  
“Forest Harvesting Options” - Gordon Iverson - Thinning Manager - Timber Tec, Inc. |
| 2       | 11:40 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. | **Future Job & Market Opportunities** | “Forest Operations and Labor Opportunities”- Gordon Iverson - Timber Tec, Inc.  
“Professional & Technical Labor Opportunities” - Michelle Trudeau – University of Washington  
“Future Forest Market Possibilities” - Skip Swenson - Senior Managing Director and Acting Vice President of Policy and Green Cities, Forterra |
| 3       | 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. | **Westside Forest Health** | “Entomology Issues” - Glenn Kohler - Forest Entomologist, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)  
“Forest Pathology Issues” - Robert L. Edmonds - Professor Emeritus, University of Washington  
“Tree Spacing Issues” - Peter Hurt - NW Silviculturalist, Washington DNR |
| 4       | 4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. | **Forestry Needs Discussion** | “Darrington Collaborative” - Paul Wagner - Atterbury Consultants, Inc.  
“Building a Successful Future Together” (Facilitated) - Gene Duvernoy - President, Forterra |
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(TORTILLA, GROUND BEEF, CHEESE, BRAISED CHARD/ KALE / BEET GREEN)

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(HARD RED WHEAT, SWEET POTATO, SERVE LIKE SPANISH RICE)

ROASTED CARROT
(CORRIANDER, SEATTLE BLEND SEASONING)

BERRIES PAVLOVA WITH FRESH CREAM
(EGGS, HEAVY CREAM, BERRIES)

CULINARY TEAM
CHEF JOHN W. CLARK
ANTHONY EADS (SOUS CHEF)
SARAH ANDERSON
SETH CLARK
JOSH LOBE
LIZ LOBE

KYLE JENSEN
CHEF CLIVE TINO
BRITTANY EADS
FIL ROMERO
SCOTT ANDERSON
SEAN MEINSKE

Evening

A Local Taste

5:00 p.m. in Building A

Thank You to our Local Taste evening reception vendors for graciously supplying us nourishment as part of the celebration of our 12th anniversary!

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Conference Chair:
- Linda Neunzig
  Snohomish County Agriculture Coordinator

Conference Coordinators:
- Bobbi Lindemulder
  Snohomish Conservation District
- Jo Lynne Seufer
  USDA Risk Management Agency
- Patrick Nelson
  Brown Paper Tickets
- Tim Hohn
  Edmonds Community College
- Mark Johnson
  Volunteers of America
- Curt Moulton
  WSU Extension, Snohomish County
- Holly Osborne
  Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association
- Oak Rankin
  Glacier Peak Institute, WSU-Extension
- Samantha Paxton
  Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle
- Duane Weston
  Forestry
- Samantha Hill
  Snoqualmie Ice Cream
- Michele Amy
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August 25 - September 5, 2016

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