

Contact: Sara Southerland, Food & Farming Coordinator
Phone: 360.647-7093 x114
E-mail: Sara@sconnect.org
More Info: SustainableConnections.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EVENT FOCUSES ON CONNECTING THE DOTS FROM FARM TO TABLE

Marketing and Networking among Topics for Annual Food & Farming Event



Bellingham, WA, December 15, 2014 – Sustainable Connections announces details for their NW Washington Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting taking place on Monday, February 9, 2014. The region's most influential business-to-business food and farming conference covers the counties of Whatcom, Skagit, San Juan, Island and beyond. It fosters direct connections for local farmers, fishers, food producers, regional buyers, those interested in sourcing local ingredients and selling their food products – all in one place.

Attendees in the past have found the event very valuable. One attendee reported, "This was a very helpful event. Hearing from so many experienced panelists with so many different areas of expertise was really great." Another noted that "The layout and schedule, including good networking time for this event is spot on. I loved having many of the smartest people in the local food system all in one room."

There will be formal and informal networking opportunities including speed networking and afternoon producer/buyer consultations. Attendees can also expect to hear updates and innovations about food hubs, meat processing, farm-to-school, wholesale buying/selling best practices and more. Resources will be available to help buy or sell more local food including a new Forward Contracts program and a local food cost calculator tool. Trade tables showcasing local food artisan and producers products will be on display throughout the day.

Registration includes a locally sourced lunch from the NW Washington Chefs Collaborative featuring Chefs Mataio Gillis from Ciao Thyme, Mica Christensen from Keenan's at the Pier, Josh Silverman, previously of Dashi and Nimbus, and Gabriel Claycamp from Skagit Valley Meats. The day will end with producer/buyer consultations and an ice cream social.

What: 2015 NW WA Farm-to-Table Trade Meeting

When: Monday, February 9 2014, 8:30am-4pm

Where: St. Luke's Education Center, 3333 Squalicum Parkway, Bellingham

Who should attend: Whatcom, Skagit, Island and San Juan farmers; fishers and ranchers; chefs; distributors; restaurateurs; processors; caterers; and grocers.

Agenda and details: www.sustainableconnections.org

Tickets and Registration: Brown Paper Tickets. Early Bird: \$25 until January 25 (includes lunch and snacks). \$50 for a trade table (includes registration and lunch).

The 2015 Farm to Table Trade Meeting is hosted by Sustainable Connections, co-sponsored by regional non-profit organization Cascade Harvest with support from WSDA Specialty Crops Block Grant, Whatcom Community Foundation. 2015 Trade Meeting sponsors include Industrial Credit Union and the Port of Bellingham.

###

Sustainable Connections is a local non-profit membership organization of NW Washington business and community leaders working to transform and model an economy built on sustainable practices. Visit www.sustainableconnections.org for more information.

Food & Farming Program: informs, empowers and provides resources to producers & buyers; makes connections between farmers, institutions, retailers & restaurants; and raises public awareness and support of local farms and eating local.