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AGRICULTURE

Focus on Farming conference will address climate change, marketing

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LYNNWOOD — Regional farming issues and marketing will take center stage at a major agriculture conference Nov. 29.

More than 600 farmers are expected to attend the fourth annual Snohomish County Focus on Farming conference, to be held from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Lynnwood Convention Center.

Paul Grey, who is stepping into the role of executive director for the revamped Whatcom Farm Friends, said he's going down because of the variety of topics that will be addressed.

"I'll be like a sponge, trying to soak up as much information as I can and report it to Whatcom County farmers," Grey said. "This is a great opportunity to meet the experts on a wide variety of topics."

Keynote speakers include Chad Kruger of Washington State University, who will discuss how climate changes will impact regional farming and U.S. Rep. Rick Larsen, DEverett, who will talk about the federal farm bill.

Other speakers include Charles Kuperus, New Jersey's secretary of the Department of Agriculture, and Dave Robb, general manager of Tuscarora Organic Growers Cooperative in Pennsylvania, which provides produce to several mid- Atlantic states.

This year's theme is "From Soils to Sales," and the conference will have several presentations about branding and marketing farm products.

For more information about the event, visit www.focusonfarming.org.

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