

**10:30 - 11:45 Discussion Groups: Choose A or B Below**

**Breakout Group A:  
The Challenges of a Changing Industry**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. What new “agriculture infrastructure” is needed to support farming in the County?
2. How can the County encourage new generations of farmers?
3. How can we preserve and support food-crops and other traditional farm products in the County?
4. What can be done to stem the loss of farmlands in the County?

**Farmer Panel:**

- Tristan Klesick, Klesick Family Farm, Stanwood
- Anna Groeneveld, Groeneveld Dairy, Monroe
- Keith Stocker, Stocker Farm, Snohomish
- Bob Rose, Executive Director, Skagitians to Preserve Farmland

**Facilitators:**

- Curt Moulton, WSU Extension, Snohomish County
- Brad Gaolach, WSU Extension, King County
- Mike Hackett, WSU Extension, Snohomish County

**Congratulations to the FFA on it's 75th Anniversary! And, thanks to the following members for their assistance at this conference:**

Lindsey Arnold  
Sarah Bellmer  
Stephanie Berkley  
Kelley Doyle  
Stacy Leorna  
Amy McCrary  
Bambi Mensik  
Leah Ruijters  
Eamon Sigler  
Jeffery P. Taylor

Chivahn Wilkens  
Calley Woodworth  
Robynn Wright  
Advisors:  
Alisa Myers,  
Snohomish H.S.;  
Mike Hougan,  
Snohomish H.S.;  
Margaret Olson,  
Stanwood H.S.

**Breakout Group B:  
Wrestling with Regulatory Issues**

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can we ensure that the “voice of the farmers” is genuinely heard and considered during regulatory review processes?
2. In what ways can County regulations better serve agriculture?
3. How can County regulations help preserve farmland?
4. What are the barriers to business diversification and entrepreneurship for farmers?
5. What programs or services could the County provide to help farmers deal with regulatory matters?

**Farmer Panel:**

- Jackie Macomber, Chair, Agricultural Advisory Board, Granite Falls
- Max Albert, Agricultural Advisory Board; Vice President, Farm Bureau
- Erik Klock, Thunderstorm Echo Ranch, Monroe
- Henry Graafstra, Country Charm Dairy, Arlington
- Dale Reiner, Farm Bureau President, Monroe

**Facilitators:**

- Jim Zuiches, Professor of Rural Sociology, WSU and past Dean of the College of Agriculture, Human and Natural Resource Sciences
- Mary Embleton, Executive Director, Cascade Harvest Coalition
- Sylvia Kantor, Extension Educator, Agro Ecology, King County

**2:00 - 3:15 Discussion Groups: Choose C, D or E Below**

**Breakout Group C:  
Crops: New keys to success?**

Presenter: Mark Christiansen, Marine View Farms, Stanwood

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can the County help farmers develop niche markets and specialty crops?
2. How should “agriculture” be redefined for regulatory purposes?
3. How can the County assist farmers with their marketing efforts?
4. What new types of farm products and activities could be successful in the County?
5. What are the keys to success for local crop farmers?

**Facilitators:**

- Craig MacConnell, WSU Extension, Whatcom County
- Tim Bernthal, WSU Extension Coordinator, Nutrition, Snohomish County
- Steve Evans, Agriculture Specialist, King County

Special thanks to the Snohomish County-Camano Association of Realtors for providing newspaper advertising support for this conference.

**Breakout Group D:  
Livestock and Dairy:  
New keys to success?**

Presenters: Andy Hofstra, Hofstra Farm, Monroe; Gerry Labish, Cattlemens Association President, Monroe.

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can the County help farmers develop niche markets and specialty crops?
2. How should “agriculture” be redefined for regulatory purposes?
3. How can the County assist farmers with their marketing efforts?
4. What new types of farm products and activities could be successful in the County?
5. What are the keys to success for local dairy and livestock farmers?

**Facilitators:**

- Mike Hackett, WSU Extension, Snohomish County
- Ned Zaugg, WSU Extension, Skagit and Snohomish Counties
- Joan DeVries, Program Coordinator, Livestock Advisor Program, Snohomish, Skagit and Island Counties

**Breakout Group E:  
Nursery, Greenhouse and Sod Production: New keys to success?**

Presenter: Jim Halvorson, Operations Manager, Smith Gardens, Marysville

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How can the County help farmers develop niche markets?
2. How should “agriculture” be redefined for regulatory purposes?
3. How can the County assist farmers with their marketing efforts?
4. What new types of farm products and activities could be successful in the County?
5. What are the keys to success for local “green” industry producers?

**Facilitators:**

- Holly Kennell, WSU Extension Horticulturalist, Snohomish County
- Carolyn Henri, Agriculture Economist, Resource Consulting
- Curt Moulton, WSU Extension, Snohomish County