

**SNOHOMISH COUNTY
WASHINGTON**



PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving is traditionally a time to gather with family and friends to share a meal together and give thanks for all we have; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has a vibrant and growing agricultural economy providing healthy food, fun and fuel for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County has more about 77,000 acres of land in farms with more than 1,500 farms contributing to a diverse agricultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, the number of farmers working and living in Snohomish County increased 9 percent while land farmed increased 12 percent, according to the latest agriculture census conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

WHEREAS, citizens are encouraged to support local farmers by shopping for food at a farmers' market, farm stand, co-op or in the local food section of their grocery store; and

WHEREAS, eating locally grown items ensures the safe production of food, allows for area farmers to be financially successful and reduces greenhouse gas emissions produced by transporting food internationally; and

WHEREAS, the Cascade Harvest Coalition's "Eat Local for Thanksgiving" campaign has inspired more than 3,000 people to make a pledge of eating at least one locally grown food item during their Thanksgiving dinner; and

WHEREAS, Snohomish County citizens are also encouraged to take the pledge at the Puget Sound Fresh Web site, www.pugetsoundfresh.org/eatlocal/index.asp; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Aaron G. Reardon, Snohomish County Executive, do hereby encourage all people to recognize the importance of the

EAT LOCAL FOR THANKSGIVING

campaign and support the agriculture in Snohomish County.

Signed this 20th day of November, 2009

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Aaron G. Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Aaron G. Reardon
Snohomish County Executive